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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2003 | THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER | VOLUME 56, ISSUE 10

Homeless for Thanksgiving
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Ontario tosses dwarf-tossing
page eighteen

NIC HUME PHOTO

From Star Trek to campus

UVic team helps people with disabilities

BY SARAH PETRESCU

Sonar-guided bicycles and brain wave communicators are no longer just the stuff of science fiction.

A recent exhibition by the UVic Assistive Technology Team (UVATT) in the Michèle Pujol room showcased innovative devices designed to aid people with disabilities. The event intended to connect the community of people with disabilities and the UVATT team, which is made up of machinists, computer scientists, electrical engineers, biologists, physiologists, neuroscientists, technicians, graduate students and an administrative assistant.

"The disabled community needs access to this equipment," said UVATT graduate student Philip Zeman.

The exhibition featured practical devices such as kayaks for people with physical disabilities, tricycles equipped with sonar sensors for sight-impaired children and eye-tracking devices for people who can't move.

The developmental devices on display attracted interest by passersby, particularly a sideways rocking chair for children with balance problems and a squeeze bar encouraging children to develop grip. "To encourage the child to squeeze, when they grip the bar, music plays as a reward," said Zeman.

One of the principal projects the team is working on is the Brain Computer Interface Project which enables people with severe disabilities to communicate through brain wave sensors placed on the head. The sensors project brain wave activity through signal processing software, allowing communication for people unable to talk or use keyboards.

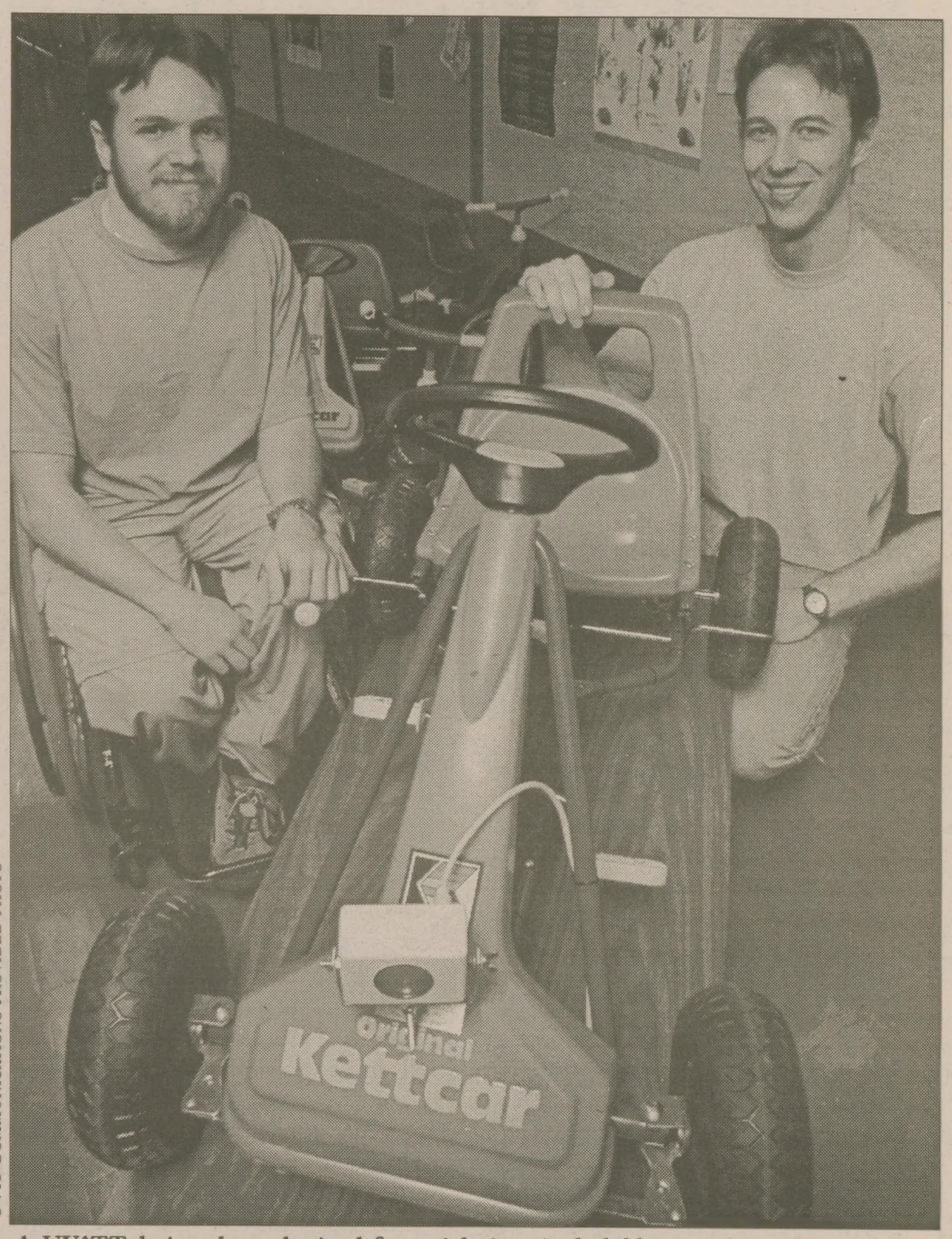
The primary technology of the project is a device called Cyberlink, which was developed to help U.S. Air Force pilots to use several instruments while flying aircrafts. Cyberlink responds to movement of the muscles or brain waves.

The Brain Computer Interface Project is also known as the "Claire Project." It was inspired by Claire Minkley, a UVic student who had cerebral palsy and died last year at the age of 19. "She was literally locked inside her body," said Zeman, who first heard about Minkley in an article in *Maclean's*. "We are trying to find ways for people like her to communicate."

UVic is one of several universities in the world that are working on brain computer interface development. Zeman said that the project has had small successes, but that there is still much to be developed.

Founded in 1999 by UVic biologist and professor Dr. Nigel Livingston, UVATT plans to expand their public exposure and access in the near future.

"We are still in the grassroots stages. We should have an office on campus within a few months," said Zeman.



UVIC COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDED PHOTO

A UVATT-designed car destined for a sight-impaired child gets a last-minute checkup from computer science student Maxime Lamothe-Brassard, left, and Emmett Gamroth, a former co-op student with UVATT and now a master's student in mechanical engineering.

GSS Graduate Students Society GSS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Tuesday , October 28 at 5:00pm

Room 108 - Graduate Students Centre

• MEETING AGENDA •

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes from March 22, 2003 General Meeting
3. Executive Council Member Reports
4. Amendments to the GSS Constitution and Bylaws*
5. 2002-03 Audited Financial Statements*
6. Announcements
7. Adjournment

*Amendments to the GSS Constitution and Bylaws and the 2002-03 Audited Financial Statements will be available in the GSS General Office on Tuesday, October 21.

Check out the GSS at http://gss.uvic.ca

The King is Dead

Media tycoon Izzy Asper leaves an ambiguous legacy

by Patrick White

The death of Israel "Izzy" Asper, CanWest Global media mogul, prompted flattering tributes across Canada last week. However, Asper's much-criticized heavy hand in editorial content and strict business agenda were, for the most part, left out.

The mass of Asper's legacy is indisputable. He consolidated the largest media empire Canada has ever seen with around 60 per cent of Canadian media under his CanWest Global ownership. According to many in the media profession, the value of his journalistic legacy remains in question.

Shane McCune, former editor and columnist with the Vancouver Province, a daily newspaper owned by CanWest, said Izzy's media empire has detracted from culture, journalism and information dissemination in Canada. McCune worked briefly for Asper and witnessed how his views influenced those he employed.

"Before Asper the Province crapped on Chretien and the Liberals. When the Aspers stepped in that all stopped. They didn't suck up to the Liberals–they just didn't dog them anymore."

In 2001, Asper and CanWest came under widespread criticism for their policy of centralizing editorial content. Editorials written in the central Winnipeg office, often echoing Asper's staunch support of Israel and the federal Liberal government, were printed in all of the company's 14 major daily papers. McCune saw it as a form of censorship.

"As soon as they run an editorial from Winnipeg, the rest of the paper cannot contradict it," McCune said. "If they say, 'Arafat's got to go,' you don't disagree with it if you want to keep your job. It is self-censorship. To get ahead you have to say what the bosses like. You don't criticize Israel in CanWest."

The centralized editorial policies shifted content control from the offices of daily papers to CanWest Global headquarters in Winnipeg. "Most foresee the day when all editing is done in Winnipeg," said McCune.

Lynne Van Luven, associate professor of journalism at UVic, agrees. "The centralized control made a lot more of the editors clear about who is calling the shots, and how much freedom they have," she said.

Radio talk show host Rafe Mair pulled his column from the Vancouver Sun last year in support of fellow B.C. journalist Gordon Gibson. Gibson was told by his editors he wouldn't be published again after writing a piece the Aspers felt was critical of them. "I don't think any journalist depending for income on CanWest won't indulge in some self-censorship. And, of course, publishers select editors who believe in company policy and they, in turn hire writers," said Mair of Asper's editorial policy.

McCune suspects the Asper sons who now hold control of the empire will push it in the same direction as their father. "They are not newspaper proprietors in the old fashioned sense," he said. "They are number-crunchers. Conrad Black was willing to settle on a lower return on investment than most in the business. He was willing to pay a little more for writers. Leonard and David know they don't have to put out a good product. The sons show signs of being every bit as litigious as Izzy."

Danielle Pelletier photo

Izzy Asper's CanWest Global holdings included some of Canada's most influential newspapers. He used them to espouse his own views, according to some critics.

Van Luven sees the Asper sons steering along the course navigated by their father as well. "Certainly there will be no immediate changes, as the CanWest Global operation is an empire, and empires need to pay tribute to the emperor for a time after his death," she said.

Asper's Global television network often placed last among all Canadian networks in terms of Canadian-produced content. Global centres on syndicated American sitcoms and sporting events like NFL football. Only a week before Asper's death, the network broke from an Ontario provincial election special to air Survivor. Asper once said, "TV stations are gigantic advertising machines there to be filled with product."

"He stuffed sausage and turned out cheese. He ran the business like a grocery store, by buying in bulk and selling a generic product to the masses.

"He has never shown an interest in Canadian culture," said McCune.

Rafe Mair feels the diminished product Asper offered was inherent in the way he ran the company. "People like Asper don't buy media outlets to expand the product but to consolidate expenses, so usually the product suffers."

Last week also brought the passing of Neil Postman, a New York University professor, critic and best-selling author of *Amusing Ourselves To Death: Public Discourse In The Age Of Show Business* who warned of the negative effects of the rise of style over substance in television and newspapers similar to Asper's. "The content of politics, religion, education, and anything else that compromises public business must change and be recast in terms that are most suitable for television," he wrote of modern media.

Though Postman would likely have deplored the style of mass media purveyed by Izzy Asper, they both would have agreed that the public favours distraction over dialogue. But where Postman saw a societal ill, Asper saw the foundations of his empire.

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outstanding community spirit
call for nominations

UVic Blue and Gold Circle Award Winners 2003
Back row (l-r): Tristan Moss, Robert Howland, Krystal O'Bryne, Ian Ricketson, Ann Marie Colwill
Centre row (l-r): Ross Kang, Trina Allinotte, Judith Bandsmer, Melanie Conrad, Basil Alexander, Hugh Williams
Front row (l-r): Meghan O'Connell, Jessie Loraas-Pletsch, Melissa Moroz, Glenys Verhulst, Bruce Farquhar

UVic Blue and Gold Circle Awards
High marks aren't limited to the classroom. UVic students also excel in the community, on sports teams and in the arts. If you know a UVic student who is both outstanding in the classroom and the community, consider nominating him or her for a Blue and Gold Circle Award before November 21.
This award honours students who maintain high academic standards while performing community service, and/or participating in sports or the fine arts. Winners will be announced in the spring.
To nominate a UVic student for a Blue and Gold Circle Award, call UVic's Student Awards and Financial Aid office at 721-8423.
www.uvic.ca/safa
University of Victoria

B.C. teachers protest changes in regulations

BY STEPHEN HUI

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP)–British Columbia's teachers are threatening to withhold their membership fees from a professional regulatory body over what they call undemocratic changes to its structure.

76 per cent of the province's 34,000 teachers have signed letters asking school boards to stop automatically deducting B.C. College of Teachers fees from their paycheques. They say the provincial government has seized control of a formerly self-regulating body.

"We have a first-class education system that's being dismantled by this present government," said Jinny Sims, first vice-president of the B.C. Teachers' Federation, "through deliberate under-funding and through deliberate attacks on the teaching profession."

In May, legislation introduced by the B.C. Liberals amended the composition of the college's governing council from 15 elected teachers and five government appointees, to 12 appointees and eight teachers. Twenty interim members appointed by the government currently fill the council. A new council will be formed next year.

Teachers assert that the legislation makes them the only profession in the province without control of their own college.

"Eventually they say that there will be eight elected, but they don't say who will get to elect the eight," Sims said. "But that's not enough."

According to the government, the legislation creates a process for the public to file complaints against teachers directly with the college. The government also claims the changes will make the college more accountable to and better representative of the public.

"We're allowing more input into the college and we're putting the needs of students first," said Harry Bloy, the MLA for Burquitlam. Bloy accused the teachers' union of resorting to "scare tactics."

"The BCTF is constantly re-fighting the last election," the Liberal MLA said.

The teachers' union says it is consulting its members and will decide on a response to the changes during the coming weeks. Options being discussed include boycotting the fees, paying them into a trust fund and even going on strike.

Local teacher's groups are urging school boards to pass resolutions opposed to the changes.

"We hope that the trustees will respect the wishes of their employees and not make a deduction when we're saying that they should not," Sims said. "It's our option how we pay for this fee."

Teachers who do not pay the $90 fee by November 30 risk losing their certification and therefore, their jobs.

According to the president of the B.C. School Trustees Association, school boards are being caught in the middle of a battle between the teachers' union and provincial government for control of the College.

PROVIDED PHOTO

MLA Harry Bloy says the B.C. Liberals are putting students first.

Gordon Comeau said school boards contractually obligated to automatically deduct the fees would continue to do so.

"I think that the government, the teachers' union, and the College should get together and try to resolve this before it starts to impact kids in the classroom," Comeau said.

Like teachers, school administrators are also members of the College, but a group representing over 90 per cent of them is recommending its members pay their fees.

"We don't think that they should be jeopardizing their employment status by withholding or delaying the payment of their fees," said Bob Lindsay, president of the B.C. Principals' and Vice Principals' Association.

Rampant speculation about the future of the College is doing more harm than good, added Lindsay, who hopes educators, including administrators, will comprise a majority of the next council.

The College is responsible for establishing education standards for the province's public school teachers, as well as issuing, suspending and revoking teaching certificates. It has about 54,000 members.

UVSS plans boycott of rising tuition fees

BY CHLOE ASH-ANDERSON AND LIZ ESTEY

UVic students may be putting their bankbooks away next semester when the students' society plans to push a tuition fee boycott.

In September of this year, the Simon Fraser University Students' Society (SFUSS) initiated a tuition fee boycott as a protest against rising tuition fees in British Columbia.

The University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) is planning something similar.

"The plan is simple. If the provincial government won't pay our education, neither will we," said Erin Hartson, a member of the Tuition Action Coalition at SFU.

Geordie Dent, the Member Services Officer for the SFUSS, emphasized the need for action. "For the second year in a row, the provincial government has cut per student funding and has passed that funding cut onto students through massive tuition fee increases," he said.

The intent behind this action is to force the government to consider the financial plight of many students.

"The university will have to either negotiate with us to ensure our school is accessible, or begin lobbying the government for increased funding," said Dent.

The UVSS is proposing a similar action to take place at UVic beginning in January.

Joanna Groves, Director of Finance for the UVSS stated their official stance on the proposed boycott. "The UVSS recognizes that there are many students that want to do more than just attend a rally, so we are organizing the tuition tee boycott as one of the many tactics for students to express rising frustrations about increasing tuition fees," she said.

Students at both institutions will face financial penalties for participating in the boycott. At SFU, the impact appears to be minimal. If tuition is not paid by the deadline, the university charges a 2 per cent monthly interest rate, students may remain enrolled in classes, and there is no impact on their academic record.

The UVic accounting department has yet to summarize the consequences for students participating in a boycott, but said that they would be comparable to those at SFU.

Response to the boycott at SFU has been overwhelming despite fines. Currently 1500 students have agreed to participate in the boycott, depriving the university of $3 million in tuition.

The UVSS plans to go ahead with the boycott regardless of consequences.

Any students looking to get involved or simply find out more about the proposed boycott can contact the UVSS in the Resource Centre in the Student Union Building (SUB).

Students are also welcome to attend the UVSS Annual General Meeting on October 16 at 11:30 a.m. in Cinecenta to voice their opinions.

We're *Quercus** about restoration at UVic.

Since 2001 students, faculty, staff, and community have been embarking on the restoration of Garry oak ecosystems at UVic.

Join us October 23, 2003 for an Open House, 12 to 6 pm, and a Design Charette, 3 to 6 pm, at the University Centre foyer.

UVic University of Victoria

Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team

UVic Sustainability Project

* *Quercus* is the scientific name for oak. Garry oak trees (*Quercus garryana*), native to our region, are part of a complex of ecosystems that are home to over one hundred rare and endangered species.

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Homeless for Thanksgiving

Homeless people have little to show thanks for

by Tim Hanson

The weather is deceptively cold. The sunshine fools me into thinking I can get by with my rustled up old sweater. For a moment I think about abandoning the effort and returning to the warm confines of my home. But then I realize before the night is over, people out here tonight will suffer far worse than the pale shivers that tickle my limbs and spine.

Today is Thanksgiving, and while most of us are loosening our belts to fit in all the turkey, others know only hunger. Being a statuatory holiday, and a time-and-a-half day, most soup kitchens, food banks and shelters are closed. The Open Door, a downtown drop-in centre, is not open. Its doors are firmly locked and its sheltered entrance is already blocked with occupied sleeping bags. The disenchanted and impoverished dot the streets. There will be no solace tonight for empty mouths and fitful sleepers.

Despite the cold wind, the warm sunshine makes some of the people I talk to almost serene. Amber, who I meet outside the Market on Yates, graces me with a shy smile and lets down her guard when I ask her how her day has been. "Good," she says. "Today is better than most, because more people feel sympathetic today. Not as many shitters." Amber is luckier than most-she's been able to shelter with a friend for a while–but her shy attitude and low profile are not unwarranted. There isn't a day that goes by where she isn't "shit" on by someone she doesn't know. "There's always someone telling you to get a fucking job, or that you're a drain on the system or a stupid piece of shit. I try not to take it personally. But it's very depressing and hard on your self-esteem. I once had a woman from New York yell, 'What the fuck? I came here to get away from you people.'

"You people?" she says, "You don't even know me."

Their treatment by authorities is apparently a sore spot with many street people. Spyke, a very well-spoken man who suffers from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and ADD, says he feels oppressed and marginalized by the society and city in which he lives. "For doing what I'm doing right now, I can have all my possessions confiscated and not have them returned until I pay a $600 fine: $200 for sitting on the street, $200 for having a sign, and $200 for extinguishing my cigarette. The policies and bylaws of City Hall do nothing to solve the problems [on the streets]. They only exist to hide us from the eyes of the tourists. I want one rule for everyone. I don't care about being fined for the cigarette. It's when no one east of Douglas is being fined for it that it pisses me off," he says.

Three blocks down the street, a police cruiser is illegally parked in front of a fire-hydrant where officers sit at an outside table and sip their hot lattes. The cops often infuriate the downtrodden, moving them from place to place, often in the middle of the night. "It has become illegal to be homeless in this city," moans Spyke.

Yann, who I meet on Store Street with his dog Chaos, tells me that there is nothing more insulatory than being ignored. He says he feels dehumanized by the people who don't acknowledge his presence, who just pretend that he doesn't exist. Pedestrians walk by indifferently and ignore his repeated requests for pocket change. His moneybag was stolen from him this morning–by someone who he thought he could trust. In it was enough money to feed and shelter him for a night. I give him what little food I have and apologize that I can't give him money for shelter tonight. He thanks me for the sandwich, politely answers my questions between mouthfuls of food, and apologizes for his angry sentiments. They do not seem angry to me in the least. In fact they seem justified.

Later on in the day at Uncle Willy's restaurant, Dodd's Furniture is putting on a Thanksgiving dinner. The room overflows with smiling faces. The whole restaurant wafts with the delicious aromas of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy. Gordy Dodd tells me that he likes to give back to the community that has done him so well. Last year, there were 200 people at dinner, this year there are 350, and next year he hopes that he can accommodate 500. He glad hands all the people and thanks them for coming.

Some feel a few rowdy panhandlers are giving homeless people, in general, a bad reputation. "The young, brash and enraged seem to think that they have a right to the pocket change of the passers-by," says Amber. Their aggressive solicitations not only give a bad reputation to others with real needs, but also elicit crackdowns on the community at large.

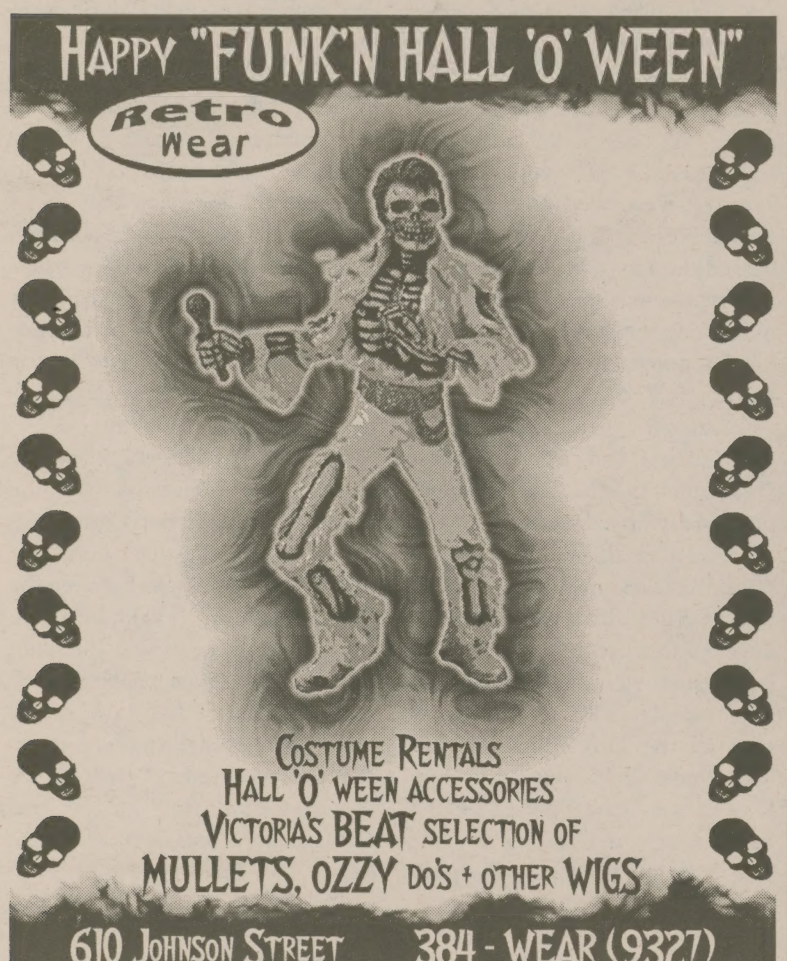
Everyone I've met today has told me that it's become harder out on the street. The sheer number of people now competing for food and shelter, has forced the once closely knit community into a Hobbesian state of nature. Everyone becomes your enemy and you take what you can, not out of need or desire, but out of the fear that it may not be there for you tomorrow.

I slip into my warm car and feel sick. I've seen so much pain today and helped so little. I want to cry from the hopelessness and futility of it all. Turning the key in my car, I am paralyzed by depression. For six hours, I've plunged myself into the quagmire of the impoverished, heard their cries and now so casually and easily excused myself. How much of my life have I spent living in indifference to those who need my help the most? These people are no less human than I and yet I've marched past them countless times, ignoring their pleas for help. How can I possibly help them now?

Nic Hume photos

Spyke sets up shop in downtown Victoria. He believes city bylaws work against homeless Victorians.

A plentiful dinner at Uncle Willy's sponsored by Dodd's Furniture offers reprieve from the cold and hunger of the streets.



British Columbians may want to De-Klein

Litigious Premier Klein will speak for B.C. under new Protocol of Cooperation

BY MEGAN STEWART

B.C. and Alberta will speak with one voice when dealing with Ottawa in the future. Last week, Premiers Gordon Campbell and Ralph Klein of Alberta signed the Protocol of cooperation, a pledge to perk inter-provincial relations and economies.

The following are a few quotes from the man who will now speak on behalf of all British Columbians.

On poverty and alcoholism:

Klein encouraged homeless Albertans to leave the province with a one-way ticket to Vancouver, after cutting nearly half from the provincial welfare budget.

In 2001, an inebriated Klein took his views of homelessness to a shelter in Edmonton.

He chucked wads of cash on the floor and told onlookers to get jobs.

On gay marriage:

"If there is any move to sanctify and legalize same-sex marriages," said Klein this June, "we will use the notwithstanding clause. Period. End of story."

If the Alberta government were to implement the clause, the marital status of gay and lesbian couples united elsewhere in the country wouldn't be recognized in Alberta, and possibly B.C.

On environmentalism:

"My science is limited to the fact that eons ago there was an ice age," said Klein. "I know that. I also know that the arctic was once covered by tundra and I guess it makes me wonder why. Was it dinosaur farts? I don't know."

Klein is an outspoken opponent of the Kyoto protocol and claims debate on the issue is "the most un-Canadian thing that any government can possibly do."

On health care:

"What do you mean a nonprofit?" said Klein in a 2002 CBC interview.

"Every doctor's office is a profit clinic. Doctors don't go into the business of being physicians not to make money."

On Iraq:

"We recognize and appreciate the leadership role the U.S. has taken in the war on terrorism."

Let's recap. Klein's views include: rejecting social welfare, opposing same-sex marriages, rejecting the Kyoto Protocol, encouraging health-care privatization, and supporting the American war in Iraq. Now he's speaking on behalf of all of us.

SARAH PETRESCU PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein has had plenty to say that British Columbians may not want to hear.

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First Peoples House

Coming Soon to UVic

BY TIM HANSON

Within the next three to four years, the students, faculty and staff of UVic can look forward to the construction of a building that doesn't look like a concrete domino.

A UVic First Peoples House is in the planning and development stages.

A joint venture between the Faculty of Human and Social Development and the Native Student's Union, The First Peoples House will address the chalienges and needs of First Nations students in the often crowded atmosphere of a large university. The fundamental goal of the House will be to create an environment on campus that is welcoming, supportive and respectful of Aboriginal students' values and beliefs.

Consultation with local Coast Salish chiefs and elders is most important to the development process, say organizers.

"In order for this building to be a symbolic acknowledgement of Coast Salish traditions and lands, the development requires respectful consultation with the local community," said Dr. Michael Prince, co-chair of the First Peoples House Task Force. Chiefs and elders from local communities endorsed a Coast Salish design, recognizing that the House should primarily reflect the culture of the people on whose traditional territory the House will rest. Further recommendations included elements of the traditional Coast Salish Longhouse, such as indigenous plant life, extensive use of wood and pillars, and a fireplace.

The largest hurdle the House must clear is that of fundraising. With a price tag of between four to six million dollars and tight B.C. Liberal government budgets, funding becomes a real issue. "We're hoping there will be small contributions from companies up and down the coast, generally from people who make their living from the use of traditional Coast Salish territory. What we really need are a few major donors, possibly from varying levels of government, or local philanthropists wishing to give back to the Aboriginal and academic communities," said Prince.

Currently the project is in the process of site selection with the Campus Development Committee. Three possible sites have been proposed. Two of them lie between the Cunningham and Elliott buildings, with a third near the Interfaith Chapel. The building, approximately 11,000 square feet in size, will house ceremonial space, kitchen facilities, computer labs, Elder's accommodations, Aboriginal Counselor's offices and a student lounge.

News briefs

Grassy Narrows First Nations fundraiser

The UVic Native Students' Union and the UVSS Women's Centre are sponsoring a solidarity night and fundraiser for the Grassy Narrows First Nation.

The community of Grassy Narrows, located 80 kilometres north of Kenora, Ontario, has been blockading access to the remaining unlogged portion of the Whisky Jack forest since December of last year. Abitibi Consolidated Ltd. has a 20-year plan to clear-cut much of the Whisky Jack forest located within Grassy Narrows Customary Land.

The fundraiser will take place Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Vertigo.

Admission is by donation.

PEERS to launch campaign against sexual exploitation

The Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society (PEERS) will launch their Campaign Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children on Oct. 20. The video and information campaign will educate the Victoria community about the sexually exploited youth in our city.

The average age of entry into the sex trade in Victoria is 14 and getting younger, according to a 1998 Ministry of Attorney General report, but PEERS hopes the upcoming campaign may curb that trend.

For more information contact PEERS at (250) 388-5325.

450 job cuts in Children's Ministry

87 government workers in the Children and Family Development Ministry got the pink slip when returning to work after the Thanksgiving long weekend. The cuts are the first in a major attempt of the Ministry to meet the liberal governments budget reduction of 11 percent by spring of 2004.

450 jobs will be cut in total throughout all of B.C. Most of the cuts will be to social workers and administrative staff.

Chris Haynes, children and family development deputy minister, said staff reductions will be encouraged through early retirement and voluntary severance.

UVic biologist echoes alarm on B.C. drinking water

The B.C. government should heed warnings about the safety of the province's drinking water, says UVic biologist Dr. Asit Mazumder. A report released Oct. 14 by the Sierra Legal Defence Fund cites B.C. as the province with the highest rate of waterborne disease and calls on the B.C. government to adopt rigorous water protection measures. "To ensure clean drinking water from source to tap–and avoid more Walkerton tragedies–Canada needs to take robust regulatory and management steps to protect water quality at the source. Otherwise we'll run out of safe drinking water sources in B.C. within the next decade, or sooner," said Mazumder, who heads a national research program on the environmental management of drinking water. For more information on UVic water quality research visit web.uvic.ca/water.

Fair Trade coffee takes over SUB

In accordance with a new UVSS policy, 100 per cent of the coffee sold in the SUB must be TransFair Canada certified.

Erik Haensel, director of academics, put forward the motion which was unanimously passed after lengthy debate.

The debate centered on Munchie Bar coffee provider Torrefazione, owned by the Starbucks corporation, which carries no fair trade blends.

The move to fair trade coffee will affect the Munchie Bar most, as they will need to aquire a new fair trade-provider, espresso machine and advertising capabilities comparable with Torrefazione.

Director of Services, Scott Payne, said at the meeting, "If we support workers rights on our campus, we should support them elsewhere as well."

News Briefs compiled by Martlet staff.

Mean-spirited B.C. Liberals target *Georgia Straight* says editor

Popular publication jeopardized by million-dollar tax levy

by Sarah Petrescu

The Georgia Straight is not quite popping the champagne following B.C. Liberal government announcement on Friday that they do, in fact, qualify as a newspaper.

The announcement came one day after the independent arts and news magazine decided to go public with a government audit that could leave them with a million dollar tax tab and costly classification.

McLeod said the government's claim that they were unaware of the audit is bogus and just a "spin" to appease public outrage at risk of the popular paper's demise.

"We're not breathing easy yet," said editor and publisher Dan McLeod, "they still haven't said we don't have to pay the fine."

The audit of the newspaper has been going on last December and centres on the level of editorial content in the paper.

In April of this year, McLeod filed a Freedom of Information Act in search of any government correspondence about the audit of *The Georgia Straight*, but were repeatedly thwarted by delays.

McLeod said he is positive that, contrary to public statements, the Minister of Provincial Revenue and the Premier were aware of the audit.

"Every reporter knows that when an F.O.A. goes in it goes straight to the top," he said.

"They're trying to say it was just a mistake of the auditor, blame it on the 'little guy.'"

McLeod said the government is targetting the *Georgia Straight* because of its critical content.

"We're not very kind to the Liberal government because we think they are not very kind to the poor and disadvantaged in our province," said McLeod.

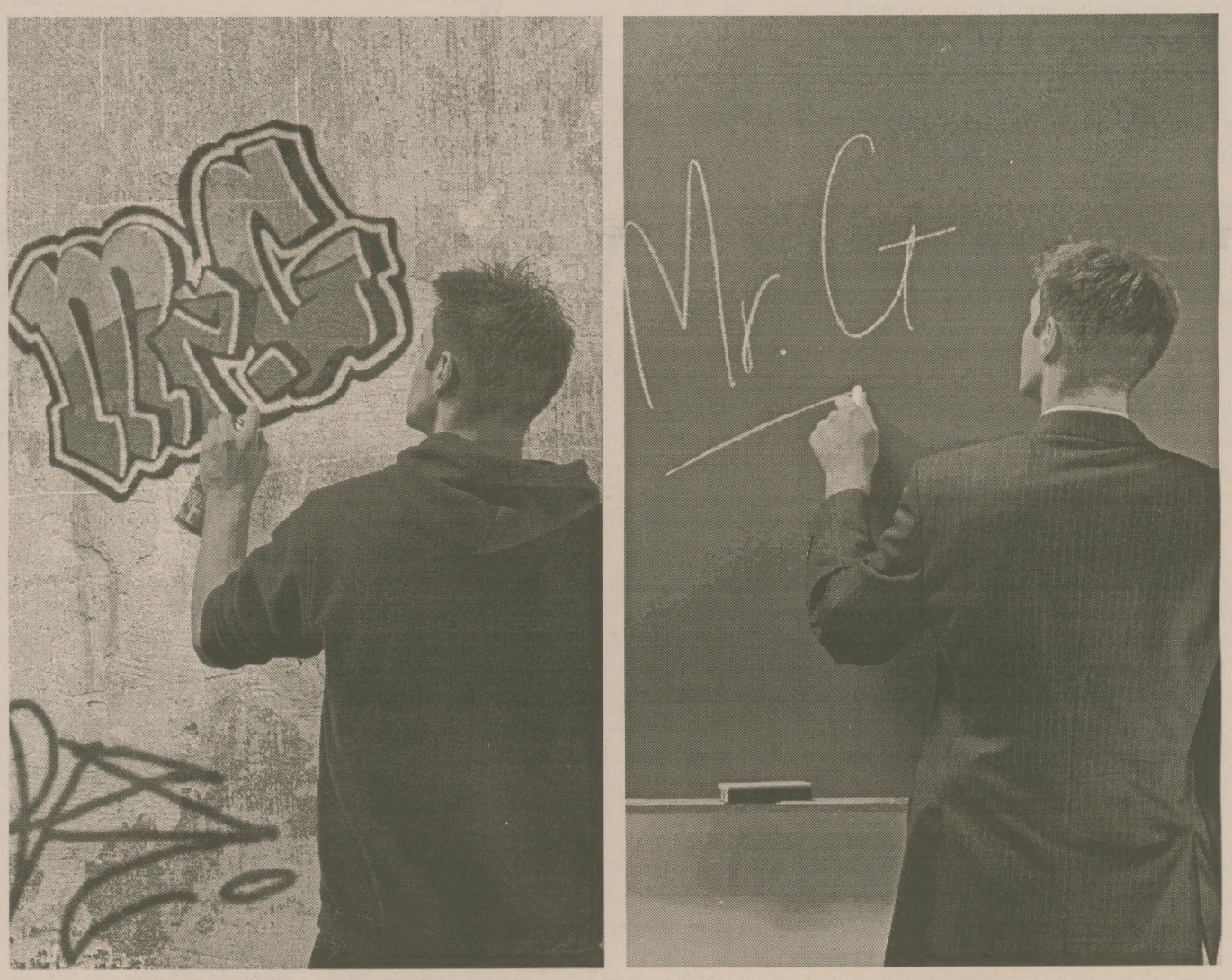
McLeod said that the *Straight* is important because it voices different opinions than most mainstream newspapers.

"The CanWest papers are almost a private PR firm. They are the government's cheerleaders, not withstanding the odd reporter who publishes something critical," he said.

Although the Liberal government did retract the claim that the *Georgia Straight* are not a newspaper, McLeod does not feel they are in the clear yet.

"They could redefine the rules at anytime to suit their needs," he said.

"This experience is a wake-up call that this government is mean-spirited, and you better watch when you criticize them or you could become a target."



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EDITORIAL

Izzy Asper

Good for business, bad for journalism

Izzy Asper was great for business. He was also bad for media. His CanWest Global empire remains, even after the Winnipegger's death, the best argument that media is not just a business and that private media needs protection from Asper-esque conglomeration.

For those unfamiliar with the state of media concentration in Canada, the CanWest Global empire now controls the majority of our country's media, including 14 major city newspapers and all three of B.C.'s major dailies.

Just a few examples of the damage Asper did to the media outlets under his control:

- Southam columnist Lawrence Martin's contract was not renewed in 2001 because of his criticism of Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chrétien–a personal friend of Asper's.

- Ottawa Citizen publisher Russell Mills was fired for publishing editorials critical to Chrétien.

- Doug Cuthand, a First Nations columnist for the Regina Leader Post, wrote an essay sympathetic to Palestinians in the West Bank, comparing them to Canada's indigenous peoples. The Aspers, who are "well known for their unstinting support of Israel," according to the Toronto Star (1/12/02), had the column killed.

- In 1991, after acquiring a 20 per cent stake in New Zealand's TV3, Asper gathered 200 employees of the station and astounded them by telling them their only role was to "sell soap."

Not content with controlling the lion's share of the Canadian news media, Asper lashed out in his final days against the supposed anti-Israeli bias of most of the Western press. His speeches, which were regurgitated ad nauseam in the Asper papers, contained a series of vague and increasingly paranoid public diatribes against the CBC, ABC, NBC, CNN, BBC, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and others, accusing them of being "lazy, or sloppy, or stupid…[or else] plain and simple, biased or anti-Semitic."

The profound irony in Aspers criticism is that CanWest was and is the only major Canadian news organization that does not have a permanent bureau in Israel. The CBC, the Globe and Mail and the Associated Press all have permanent reporters covering the Middle East.

By consolidating the foreign bureaus, domestic reporters, and editorial opinions of his outlets, Asper greatly increased the CanWest profit margins. He also greatly reduced the quality of its journalism.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.
Don't like what you read?

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UVSS critics feel the Payne

What the 2003–2004 UVSS Board of Directors has been doing

BY SCOTT PAYNE

If participation in the political arena teaches you one thing, it is that regardless of what you do and what reasons you have for doing it, someone is bound to disagree with you.

Be it disagreement over the decision itself or your reasons for making the decision (or both), invariably, debate ensues. Nowhere is this truer than in the structure of democracy. So it goes at the University of Victoria.

Every year a group of individuals is elected to represent the over 15,000 undergraduate students at UVic. Those individuals spend the better part of the summer planning, meeting, preparing and consulting about what will happen over the course of their one-year term in office. Come September, those individuals go about the business of turning all that planning into action of some kind or another.

As noted above, around that time criticisms, complaints and arguments come flooding in about those actions. Far from a negative thing, this phenomenon is encouraging, because it is just such a passionate and, at times, heated dialogue that democracy is designed to engender.

For the busy student, however, this melee of opinions can be a bit overwhelming. Nonetheless, I think it's fair to say that what most students are looking for from their elected representatives is some kind of responsible action–some kind of intelligent use of the resources that the students have provided their representatives with.

There has been some speculation raised over what the 2003-2004 UVSS Board of Directors has been doing with those resources, as outlined in the Sept 25th *Martlet* "News Briefs." As an answer to those speculations the Executive representatives of the UVSS thought that it might be useful to list off its past actions and plans currently in the works for future actions, particularly those surrounding tuition fee increases.

The month of September was spent primarily putting on Weeks of Welcome events that are designed to create a fun and vibrant campus to return to, or attend for the first time.

Nonetheless, even some these events had political messaging worked into their structure. On September 5 the UVSS organized a beverage garden entitled "Suck Back the Fees," where students were provided with information about rising tuition fees and their effects. September 12 was the "Cornival" Music Festival, including local bands, a bazaar, free corn on the cob and information tables set up with coalition partners who helped to organize the event. Finally, September 13th was the day of "SUBversion 2003," the giant welcome back party held in the SUB featuring five soundstages and eleven different musical acts.

Also in September was the launch event for the Spokes Bicycle bursary program called "Clean Air Day." The Spokes program is a joint venture between the UVSS and the UVSP to provide students with bicycles, helmets and locks for the duration of one year.

The UVSS also has a number of events scheduled in the near future. This Thursday will see the kick-off event for the campaign against rising tuition fees entitled "Bring Fees Back to Earth," which will feature live entertainment, free popcorn and a speakers corner booth, among other things. The next day (Oct 16) is the UVSS Annual General Meeting where all members are invited to come and hear reports from UVSS directors about the ongoings of the society and make decisions about the future direction of the society.

Despite being primarily political candidates in last year's election, this year's board is not forgetting that students enjoy having a good times. As a result a number of big-name concerts have been lined up for this semester.

October 30 and November 1 will be 700-person shows with Canadian breakthrough artists Sam Roberts. This may be your last chance to see the band in such an intimate environment. Later on in the month Hot Hot Heat will be hitting campus for an all ages event on November 15th.

Nonetheless, students are faced with some very difficult issues in the form of skyrocketing tuition fees, declining quality of education, chronic government under funding and a multitude of other attacks on post-secondary education. The primary focus of the UVSS is to stay on top of these issues and inform its membership about them, while providing ways for students to get involved in the movement to change the post-secondary education system. To this end the UVSS, in conjunction with the Canadian Federation of Students, is planning a National Day of Action on February 4 and a number of lead-up events to highlight many of the above mentioned concerns.

Scott Payne is director of services for the University of Victoria Students' Society.

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Fearing celebrities turned politicians

Schwarzenegger is a newcomer to the political arena, which makes him slippery as an eel

BY TIM HANSON

With Arnold Schwarzenegger newly installed as the Governator, I'm curious if I'm the only citizen of B.C. worried about the future of British Columbia-California relations.

When he was just an actor, Arnold was the main voice behind the move to take the filming of Terminator 3 to Los Angeles from Vancouver.

His concern was with "runaway studio" productions and their tendency to leave the sunny skies of California for the cheap production facilities and locales of Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. Arnold has said that his primary focus is going to be on politics. He's going to leave the movie business behind and focus his attention on the welfare of California.

This has me worried. Canadians already take the shaft too often from NAFTA because we can produce goods and services cheaper than our Yankee counterparts. Only on occasion does it work out to our benefit.

Part of the reason why former California Governor, Gray Davis, was ousted was due to the extremely high State debt and deficit that had accumulated over the last few years.

In June of 2001, coincidentally the same year Campbell came to power in B.C., Californian politicians partially de-regulated the state's energy. The result was disastrous.

The price of electricity skyrocketed based on its low supply and high demand. Power companies ended up taking out billion-dollar loans in order to pay for free market electricity, which was held in a residential consumer price-freeze.

In the midst of this crisis, our province stood up.

BC Hydro provided (relatively) cheap electricity to California, while brownouts, blackouts and cut off services were plaguing Californian power companies. Our overproduction provided BC Hydro and consequently the rest of B.C. with extra revenue.

Is Arnold's attitude toward foreign film production going to spill over toward foreign energy production?

Arnie is a newcomer to the political arena, which makes him as slippery as an eel. Like the wind, no one knows where he comes from and no one knows where he's going. His ideals could mirror Al Gore's in terms of energy and environmental policy, but on the other hand, he could voice imperialist ideology as a way of providing a quick fix (read: Iraqi oil) to California's energy crisis.

I'm more worried about the devil I don't know than the devil I do know.

Either way, it'll be interesting to see what Conan the Barbarian has to say about American foreign policy.

In the 1980s, the American "post-Vietnam" electorate felt a close kinship to Ronald Reagan because he was personified as a war-hero. That was not the case. Reagan never served in Vietnam; he starred in a Marine Corps' paratrooper instructional video. His political popularity was established not because of his ability to govern, but through his celebrity status.

The same is true with Schwarzenegger. The man has never had any real experience in civil governance–as his sexual harassment scandals quickly point out.

Politics requires more than just the notoriety and blind trust that comes with celebrity. It requires a thorough understanding of the law, people and policies that made the state great.

Celebrity status can go wrong. Just look at Bush Junior.

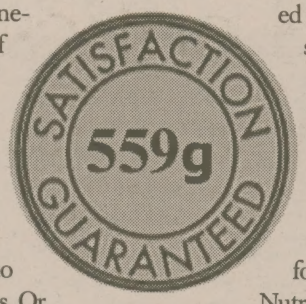
Dangerous misss-labeling

What's a consumer-savvy shopper with a nose for accuracy to do?

BY HOLLY PATTISON

There was a noodle glitch come dinnertime when I recently picked up some Safeway Select Verdi Fettuccine.

Buy one, get one free seems like a great deal when you're trying to feed a family. However, according to the label, one-half cup of pasta equals 559 grams of carbohydrates. Does that sound right?



It's not. In fact, it's grossly wrong. Pasta usually ranges from 13 to 20 grams of carbohydrates per serving. You'd have to eat 28 servings of most varieties of pasta to consume 559 grams of carbohydrates. Or six banana splits. Or 12 Big Macs. Or two whole medium Pizza Hut pepperoni pan-pizzas. But a half cup of noodles? Plain noodles, without sauce even? Forget it. Safeway's nutritional label is clearly wrong. So what?

The result of this deviant carbohydrate calculation may simply be pangs of guilt, especially for those on the high-protein, low-carb Atkins diet who splurge on a Friday night forkful of fettuccine. But for diabetics who regulate the amount of insulin they inject based on a food's carbohydrate value, label accuracy is vital. I know this because I live with a diabetic who calculates every morsel he eats. And based on the label's information, his insulin dose for one serving of Safeway's pasta would be more than the total amount of insulin he usually takes in two days.

This significant error got me wondering–could a diabetic overdose on insulin because of a false nutrition label? Should there be an all-points-bulletin dispatched to all diabetics to disregard this delinquent carb value? I called the Canadian Diabetes Association for advice.

A representative, who didn't want to be quoted, suggested that Safeway's error was stupid rather than dangerous and that most diabetics would recognise such a nutritional claim as a mistake.

Okay. That statement is probably right. Likely no diabetic would believe the fettuccine label accurate. But the consequence of such a mistake happening–coma in the worst-case scenario–certainly raises questions about labeling accuracy. It may even warrant a notice to consumers and an immediate correction, which essentially sums up the letter I wrote to Safeway.

Their response was speedy and polite: "thanks for telling us, sorry, we'll look into it, if you need anything else please contact us. And thank you for shopping at Safeway."

I e-mailed them back. What were they going to do about it? No response. I felt dismissed (like the feeling B.C. voters experience during federal elections when the East declares a winner before all of us can get to the polls). We already responded to your complaint Ms. Shopper, now shoo. I was the used-up grease spit out by the corporate wheel because my minuscule voice didn't really matter.

What's a consumer-savvy-shopper with a nose for accuracy to do? I discovered that Canada has new food labeling guidelines, the Nutritional Labeling Regulations, which make nutritional labels mandatory. They're also supposed to be accurate. Health Canada's Web site indicated that food-labeling concerns should be directed to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

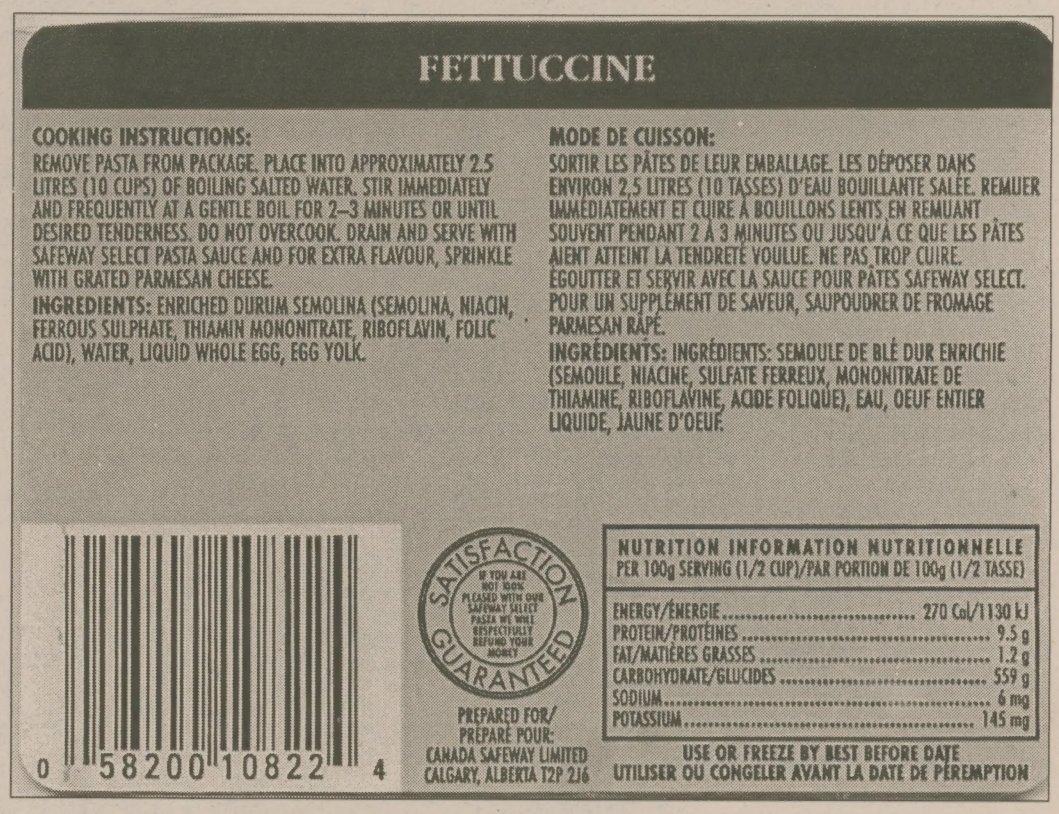
This was beginning to seem like a lot of work, slogging through government regulations (yawn) and browsing from one bureaucratic web site to another. I mean, life is busy enough with school and kids without having to chase down what some people probably consider an insignificant or petty detail. Maybe this was just a convenient excuse to postpone some papers that needed writing. Maybe I was going too far in being a stickler for decal details because I was pissed at getting the corporate brush off. But I figured one more phone call wouldn't hurt. After all, what's the point of making nutritional labeling mandatory if there's no pressure to correct false information?

The CFIA agreed. They said my pasta problem underlined the critical importance for label accuracy, and although there is a margin for human error, manufacturers are responsible for that accuracy. Thank you. Two days later, they called to assure me the funky fettuccine issue was resolved. But they wouldn't say how. Confidentiality issues.

Apparently, it's bad for business to reveal how they are disciplined or made to tow the Regulations line. I briefly considered asking if that information would be available under the Freedom of Information Act. Shouldn't the consumer's right for assurance of food safety out-weigh the need to protect business from embarrassing blunders? But I decided to let go.

Incidentally, the Safeway pasta was delicious. But my partner chose to not eat rather than guess its true carbohydrate content. For him, it just wasn't worth the risk.

Yesterday I noticed that Safeway had either pulled or sold out of all their Select Verdi fettuccine. I guess they maybe felt the same way.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MODE DE CUISSON:
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Where old books go to die

"Who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a good book, kills reason itself..."
–John Milton

BY CHRISTINA PALASSIO

MONTREAL (CUP)–Chemistry textbooks from the 1970s live about as long as an African cape parrot. Their counterparts, the biology, physics and computer science textbooks, do not make it much past 25 years either. Hardcover art books, trade paperbacks and cookbooks, on the other hand, tend to have more lives than the average housecat.

Jon Paul Fiorentino is a poet and editor now living in Winnipeg. The owner of many books, he is nevertheless unclear on the fate of abandoned, unwanted books.

"They go just outside of Juneau, Alaska, where they live off the land and participate in an idyllic communal society," he ventures.

In many cases, books enjoy a long and colourful journey before being relegated to the recycling box. Stripped of their covers and spines, they end up in piles of aimless pages at recycling plants across the country.

But the question is, how do they get there?

Simon Dardick, co-founder of Montreal-based publisher Véhicule Press, says stores that can't sell books because they are damaged or unpopular usually send them back to the distributor within a year for a full credit.

"There are a lot of books sitting around in warehouses," says Dardick.

If a book hasn't been requested by another store after a year, the distributor culls them, meaning they ship them off to another location.

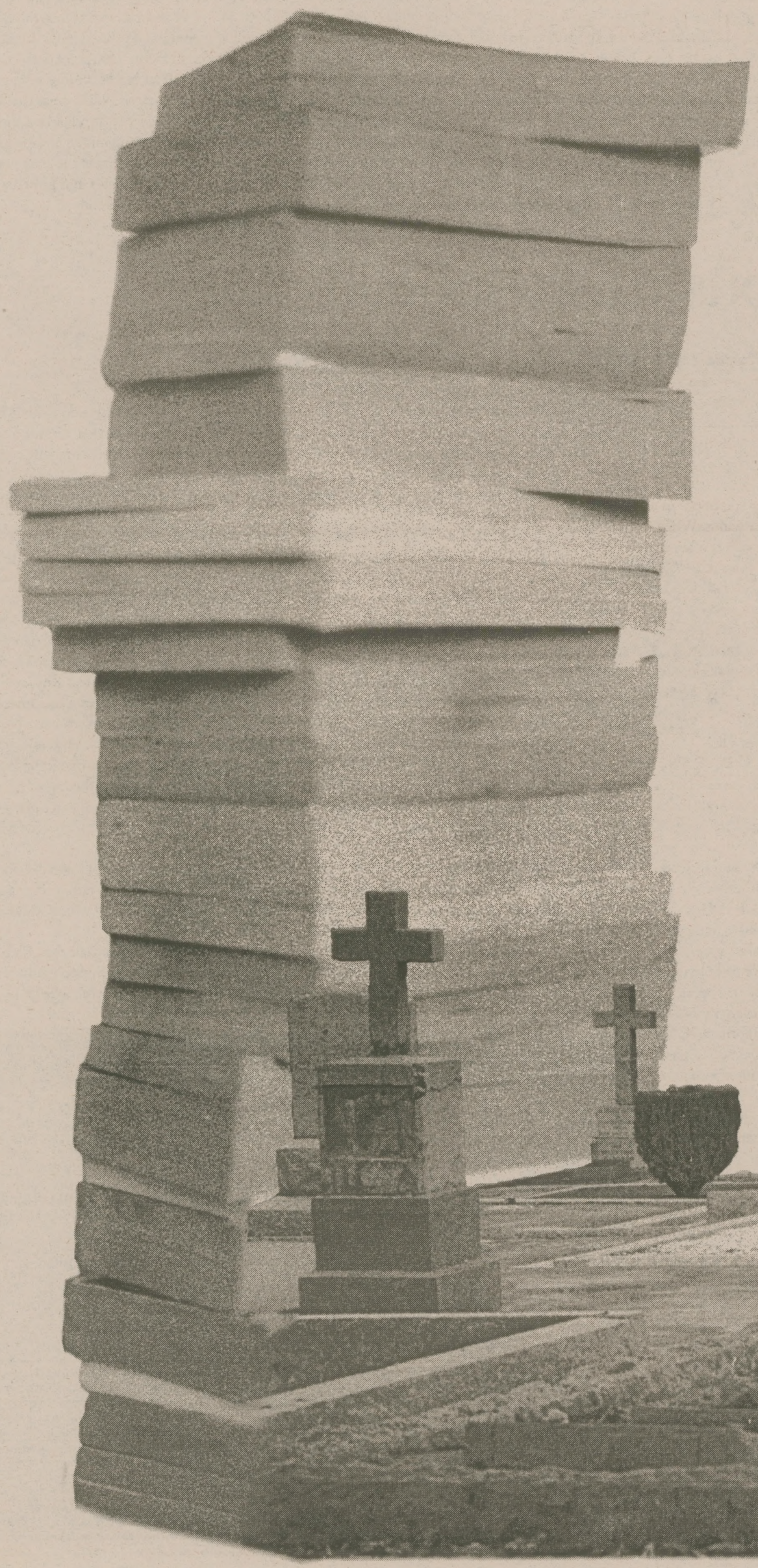
When a book is culled, the author is contacted and asked if he or she would like to buy the remaining copies of their book. If they do not want the books, the distributor sells them to remaindering stores or charitable organizations. Dardick points out that remaindering stores are the more popular destination for unwanted books in this case, as places like the Salvation Army tend not to want large quantities of the same novel.

Literary basketball

If a remaindering store cannot get rid of a book, it is eventually "pulped"–an industry term used to describe the slicing and recycling of books.

Caroline Wesley, a former Chapters employee, says that a trip to a local recycling plant can often yield great literary treasures.

"If you go to your local recycling depot, as I do, you can find all manner of discarded books to pillage," she says. "Usually these are whole copies, hard back and paper. Sometimes you find personal papers, but that's a whole other field of strange archaeology."



Saving books from being turned into pulp may be a hobby for some, but it is not regular fare for most readers who like to purchase their science fiction novels and philosophy treatises from shops.

In many cases, distribution deals send books to larger booksellers such as Chapters and Indigo. These stores cannot give books away when they don't sell. Instead, books sit on store shelves gathering dust until they are pulled and either reduced in price or sent to the receiving warehouse. The idea is that employees get all the dead stock off the shelves to make room for new regularly arriving shipments.

"Reports are generated on the computer and printed out," explains Wesley, an English Literature student at the University of Waterloo.

In the computer system, books are rated as either "front" or "back"–front books being newer than back books–and categorized using the letters "A" through "E." "A" means the book is a good seller, and "E" means it is a flop.

"So, say I go for Random House [publishing company], back 'E's and 'D's. I plop all that into the computer and I get a nice little list of titles printed out."

After books are relegated to the warehouse they are split into hardcover books, trade paperbacks and mass market paperbacks. Hardcovers and trade paperbacks are sent back to the distributor, while mass market paperbacks are stripped of their covers and lobbed into large recycling bins.

Wesley says this game of literary basketball can often be the highlight of a receiving employee's day. As for paper cuts, the poor quality of the paper used in mass market paperbacks ensures that the staff are not running for Band-Aids every time a cart of books is sent back.

"Legally, we are supposed to rip each book in half before we dispose of it, but this is an extra step and most often is not performed," admits Wesley, who says her store set a weekly book return quota of $20,000 while she worked in receiving. "Check out the dumpster behind a Chapters or Indigo someday–lots of romance novels to be had for sure."

Redistribution

A major reason books are recycled or sent back to the distributor is shop wear.

"Most of our clients are fairly particular about the books. You don't want to pay top dollar for something that's in bad shape," says David McDerby, the manager of the Nicholas Hoare bookshop in the Ogilvy's store on Ste. Catherine Street in Montreal. "It's distressing to see the condition books are in sometimes."

McDerby has been in the book business for 25 years and boasts his own extensive private library. Though he says he prefers to hold on to his books regardless of their condition, there are some exceptions.

"I'll occasionally prune unread books taking up space. Sometimes I've regretted it," he admits.

One of those regretted books was a small hardcover edition of Thomas de Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* he bought in Istanbul. McDerby says he sold the novel after having it for five or six years and instantly regretted it. Fifteen years later, he stumbled on the same well-travelled copy of the novel during a visit to Westcott Books on Ste. Catherine Street. "It was an appropriate ending to the saga," he gloats.

Though many people prefer to buy their books firsthand, the beginning and end of each school year sees dozens of students lugging bags of books to and from used bookstores, each trying to pawn textbooks and novels off on wary store owners. The months in between see squinty-eyed book enthusiasts scanning shelf after shelf in search of buried gems and well-kept classics.

Most second-hand bookshops build their stock on people's unwanted books. Terry Westcott, owner of Westcott books, says the big sellers in his store are literature, history, art and philosophy. He says everything he buys sells, so recycling isn't a factor. The only books that don't are those purveyors have left behind when he has refused to buy them.

"I usually refer people to another store but they often just leave them with me and I put them out on the curb," he explains, and adds that these abandoned tomes are usually quickly picked up by keen-eyed passers-by.

Libraries across the country deal heavily in book traffic day after day and books of all ages and qualities pass through their hands. When a library has no further use for a certain book, it is often sent to the Canadian Book Exchange Centre (CBEC) in Ottawa. CBEC is a resource-sharing service provided by the National Library of Canada. It exists solely to keep old books in circulation. The organization accepts donations from libraries and private citizens nationwide and acts as a redistribution centre for the books it receives.

Book donations come from provincial, municipal, university, private and government libraries. George Freitas, a CBEC employee, says there are an average of 13,000 books in the centre's database at any one time.

Participating organizations can access the database and order books they want for their collection.

Though the centre deals mainly with Canadian organizations, it sometimes receives requests from outside the country. Freitas says teachers from Mexico, Jamaica and some African countries have contacted CBEC looking for language textbooks.

"Teachers sometimes don't have access to those books," he explains. "If we find a home for them that's good."

Like shrimp for a cocktail

When the centre receives books that are too worn or out of date, they stack them in a bin. They sit there like their counterparts in distribution warehouses and large bookstores across the country and wait until the recycling company picks them up.

Book lovers may cringe at the thought of a machine de-spining their favourite book like a shrimp being prepped for a cocktail.

Ottawa's Metro Waste Recycling is one of the companies that drive around picking up binned books. Once in the company's backyard, books are put through a rigorous process to prepare them to be recycled.

It sounds like a beautifying regimen, but it's not. The books are pushed into a guillotine that rips off their spines. The spines are thrown out, the covers are recycled and the pages are sorted into different bales depending on their grade. The bales are then shipped by the truckload to pulp and paper mills where they are turned into mush.

"In order for us to recover the value of the books, we have to cut the spine off," explains Sean Jackman, a customer service representative for the company.

Many book lovers may cringe at the thought of a machine de-spining their favourite book like a shrimp being prepped for a cocktail.

In his 1644 speech *Aeropagitica*, John Milton claimed that killing a book is like killing reason itself. These days, people around the world spend their lives defending books and the messages they contain. However, some book enthusiasts aren't so sentimental.

"There are many books I'd like to get rid of," says poet Jon Paul Fiorentino.

"The problem is that I don't own them anyway, so getting rid of them would be hard–it would require obtaining them first."

IAN HARDER ILLUSTRATION

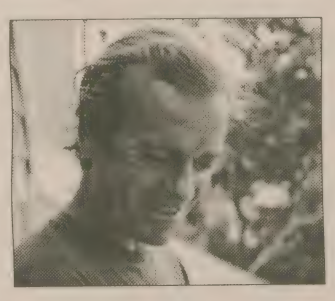
Bolen Books Coming Events

SPECIAL EVENTS

Nick Bantock
Tuesday November 18, 7:30 pm

Ten years ago, the world fell in love with Griffin Moss and Sabine Strohem, following their magical courtship by reading their postcards and letters to one another; now, with ***The Morning Star***, one of the great love stories of our time comes to a close. Author and artist **Nick Bantock** draws on myth, memory, history and his own remarkable imagination to create a story that will linger long in his readers' minds, that will haunt their dreams. All this, from a single, humble postcard...

At St. Ann's Academy, 835 Humboldt. Tickets $5.



Martin Amis
Saturday November 22, 7:30 pm

Literary iconoclast. Gifted novelist. Keen social critic. Renowned bad boy of British letters. **Martin Amis** is truly one of a kind. Amis makes his Victoria debut to read from ***Yellow Dog***, his first new novel in seven years, a brilliant, painful, dazzling and hilarious comedy of manners for the new millenium.
With a wicked sense of humour, and keen insight into both the craft of fiction and the mysteries of the human heart, Amis pushes fiction into the future with ***Yellow Dog***. Already the cause of much controversy in England, it's one of the most significant novels of the year. An evening with Martin Amis? Who would dare miss it?

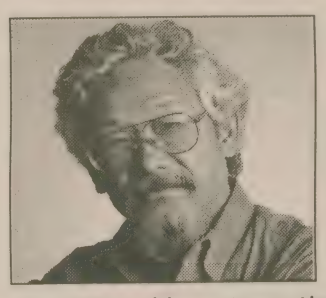
Venue and time to be announced. Please call Bolen Books for more information.

General Romeo Dallaire
Sunday November 30, 7:30 pm
The book of the year!

How often do you get to meet a genuine hero, a man who stood by his principles when there were lives in the balance, who sacrificed his own future and peace of mind for the sake of others?
Ten years ago, **General Romeo Dallaire** led United Nations intervention forces into Rwanda for what they thought was a straightforward peacekeeping mission. Thirteen months later, he flew back to Canada broken and suicidal, having witness the slaughter of 800,000 Rwandans in only 100 days. In ***Shake Hands With The Devil*** (Random House Canada) **General Dallaire** takes readers with him on a return voyage to the hell of Rwanda. The fact that he could not do more haunts **Dallaire** still, and his message is simple and undeniable; "Never again".

If you attend no other event this year, this appearance by **General Romeo Dallaire** should not be missed.

At the Alix Goolden Performance Hall, 907 Pandora Avenue. Tickets $5.

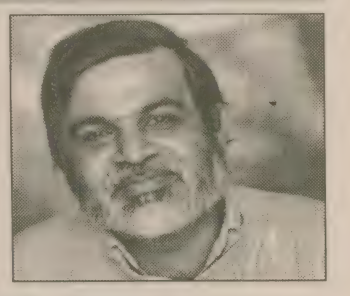


Dr. David Suzuki
Monday December 1, 7:30 pm

Dr. David Suzuki has become a legend of our time - an admired academic, a respected media figure, a vaunted environmental warrior and an ecological leader trying to create a better world for our children. With the publication of ***The David Suzuki Reader*** (Greystone), readers will at last be able to trace the themes and development of **Suzuki**'s thought for over four decades. Drawing from both published and unpublished writings, **Suzuki** looks unflinchingly at the destructive forces of globalization, political shortsightedness and greed; warning against blind faith in technology, economics and politics; and reminds us, finally, of our connectedness and of hope for the future. **Suzuki**'s message is more important now than ever before; don't miss this opportunity to more fully explore his thoughts and works.
Note: **David Suzuki**'s appearances regularly sell out well in advance; please buy your tickets early to avoid disapointment.

At the Alix Goolden Performance Hall, 907 Pandora Avenue. Tickets $7.50.

IN-STORE EVENTS

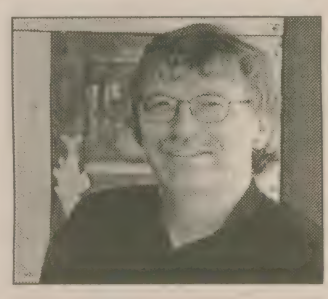


M.G. Vassanji and Frances Itani
Monday October 20, 7 pm

M.G. Vassanji, who was awarded the very first Giller Prize makes his long-awaited return with ***The In-between World of Vikram Lall*** (Doubleday Canada). Born in colonial Kenya, Vikram spends his life searching for his place in the world. Haunting and rich, ***The In-between World of Vikram Lall*** is one of the most powerful novels of the year – **just nominated for the Giller Prize!**

An international publishing sensation, **Frances Itani**'s ***Deafening*** (Harper Collins Canada) is one of the most talked about novels of the year.
The first novel from an acclaimed and prize-winning author of short fiction (her most recent collection was ***Leaning, Leaning over Water***), ***Deafening*** tells the story of Grania, deaf from the age of five, who is sent to the Ontario School for the Deaf where she must learn to live on her own. Ranging from the insular world of the school to the battlefields of France, ***Deafening*** is an unforgettable experience. The novel, a deeply moving journey through strength and vulnerability, a breathtaking exploration of a world where sound exists only on the margins.

Mark your calendar – this promises to be *the* literary event of the fall!



Fred Stenson and Jasper Fforde
Tuesday October 21, 7 pm

Calgary writer **Fred Stenson**'s new novel ***Lightning*** (Douglas & McIntyre) takes up where his Giller-nominated, ***The Trade*** left off. It is 1881, and the fur trade has been forced to make way for a new economy. The age of the cowboy, Canadian style, is about to begin. Part literary novel, part western, ***Lightning*** is another triumph for Stenson,

Literary prankster **Jasper Fforde** returns with ***The Well of Lost Plots*** (McArthur and Company), a quirky, delightful romp that will forever change your understanding of fictional worlds. Why is literary detective Thursday Next crossing paths with Dickens' *Miss Havisham*? And what of her disturbing journey to Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*? What evil force lurks behind all these changes? And can Thursday save fiction itself? Don't miss **Jasper Fforde** – you'll never be the same.

Maggie de Vries
Sunday October 26, 7 pm

In the press coverage of Vancouver's Missing Women case and the Robert Pickton investigation, one voice that hasn't been heard is that of the missing women themselves. With ***Missing Sarah*** (Penguin Canada), one of those voices can at last be heard. **Maggie de Vries** began ***Missing Sarah*** as a way of learning about her sister Sarah, a sex trade worker who disappeared from the Downton Eastside. Drawing from Sarah's journals and other writings, Sarah emerges as a fully realized human being. ***Missing Sarah*** will break your heart and change the way you look at the world. Truly an unforgettable experience.

Jonathan Raban
Monday November 3, 7 pm

Jonathan Raban is a favourite of Victoria readers and audience, drawn to him for his canny observations and his skill at characterization, whether in his fiction or his travel-writing. His latest book ***Waxwings*** (Pantheon) finds **Raban** wearing his fiction-writer's hat to tell an unsettling, funny and oddly tender novel set in Seattle at the turn of the millenium, just as the high-tech boom turns bust. ***Waxwings*** is ultimately about the search for home, the search for connectedness in an age of distance and virtual reality. As with all **Jonathan Raban** books, it's compelling reading.

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Dreams, dinosaurs and veganism

BY ZOË BAKE-PATERSON

There is something curious about Jim Holyoak's art–it can be minute, a snail with glowing white intestines, or immense, an eight by eight foot slaughtered cow.

"I am a sucker for details," admits Jim Holyoak, a fourth-year visual arts student at UVic. "I like rips and tears, crinkles, stains, texture, lines. I like line quality."

He also likes ink.

Glancing quickly from the sidewalk, the window at the 50/50 Arts Collective appears to be a chaotic clutter. Pausing to study the collection –of sketches, photocopied journal entries, newspaper cuttings, paintings, life drawings, quotes, splatter art and a singular lost-cat poster–confirms it. This display is a multi-dimensional kaleidoscopic collage.

Trying to pin down a singular theme or focus, an artist's statement, is near impossible.

"My life doesn't have a thesis statement. It's a mishmash," says Holyoak. "When someone knows what they want to say and they go for it, it's awesome, but I usually don't. I'm down with tangents."

The window makes this apparent. The images are taped in layers to the front window, the walls behind, and scattered on the floor in a haphazard sequence. The effect is overwhelming. It changes the space from a narrow display case to a mass of black and white details: a figure bows low amidst a shower of fine ink speckles, a man poses in a striped shirt, a cat (named Bobby) stares with fierce eyes and a man lies gored beneath a cow.

"I don't mind my drawings being a window into another world, but it's also a piece of paper stuck to a wall," says Holyoak. Indeed, it is easy to get caught up in analyzing the pieces, searching for a meaning and message, especially the ones portraying monsters or fantastical creatures. But this display is a collection of papers from the walls in Jim Holyoak's art studio and bedroom. It is a work in progress. It is more exploratory than conclusive, he says.

"Drawing, for me, is a balance of restraint and release. I encourage accidents and sabotage myself on purpose. Sometimes my crappiest art is my favourite. It's a balance of crude and careful…. [But] anything's art if you call it art, whether I like it or not."

Considering that this showing includes found art, as well as studio pieces, and lost pet posters, Holyoak makes an important point. It is art if you call it art. Isn't it?

Through a small door on the inside, a man steps into the display case. With tousled burgundy hair and black almost-rocker-style jeans, Jim Holyoak plays the role of a scruffy modern bohemian very well. But it is his hands that give him away as an artist. Holyoak's hands are more dyed black than they are skin-toned.

"Slaughtered cow" by Jim Holyoak.
An 8'10" by 8'10" piece incorporating body prints of the artist.
Ink and graphite on paper, 2003.

Hands so saturated with ink along fingers and palms, that when he shakes my hand, I expect my own to be stained. It isn't.

These not-so-accidental "accidents"–china ink spills–create the stained fingers and the unpredictable feeling in his art. Although

"I am more pig than I am not a pig" (detail) by Jim Holyoak. Ink and graphite on paper, 2003.

Holyoak leaves no physical imprints with his fingers, his art does provoke a mental or emotional imprint. His work inspires thinking.

This could be captured by a dozen academic terms: he is a self-described agnostic who is into "aesthetic pluralism" and inspired by "proto-surrealism" (think Goya) and Nietzsche. Looking at the simplicity in some pieces, it is easier to see the other influences in his work like children's author and artist Shel Silverstein, or Edward Gorey, artist of the Gnashly Crumb series, who has a similar lust for details.

Holyoak's art also plays with themes of dreams, dinosaurs and veganism.

"I think brontosaurs are the best metaphor for death," says Holyoak.

Art often evokes a sense of melodrama–especially brooding, poignant, political art–but it's hard not to when addressing life philosophies. Holyoak says his work has no direct political statement, yet as I look at them, each project is loaded with meaning.

There is a series of anti-smoking cancer photos built into drawings. There's a recurring theme of veganism, manifest in images of gored animals or the life-sized slaughtered cow. Also present is a recent newspaper photograph of President George W. Bush emblazoned with the words "Where's Lee Harvey Oswald when we really need him?"

Holyoak, although more thoughtful than despairing, verges on the melodramatic, but that is what makes his work so intensely provoking.

"I write and I draw all day long and when I have time, I play…. My thought patterns are like a skipping stone."

See Holyoak's art: "Drawing the Line" with Caleb Retzlaff @ Main Gallery, Visual Arts Building, UVic, until October 19.

Also see: Interior installation and window display @ 50/50 Arts Collective (416 Craigflower Rd.) November 7–14.

Are you a big *Sloan* fan?

The **first two people** to come to *the Martlet* office **before Friday at noon** and tell an Arts Editor *all the names of the members of Sloan* **WIN a pair of tickets** to their show at *Legends on Sunday, Oct. 19th.*
Subsequent Sloan fans can win trucker hats and patches!
(If an Arts Editor isn't here, leave your name, contact info, and the time you came by. This is important.)

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"40% of all statistics are wrong"

Everybody is kung fu fighting

Kill Bill *and the triumphant return of Quentin Tarantino*

by Briony Smith

Quentin Tarantino has been holding out on his fans for six years now.

The man who instilled film nerds with a palatable lust has laid his fourth movie on us, and *Kill Bill–Vol. 1* arrives as one of the most highly anticipated films of the year. It is worth the wait.

Tarantino is infamous for making films that reveal an obsession with everything retro, from fashion to music. Always a fan of sharing his passion for the films of decades past (blaxploitation films in *Jackie Brown*, hardboiled group heist films with *Reservoir Dogs*), Tarantino has finally been able to bring his love of kung fu films to his latest project, *Kill Bill*. Kung fu films are not known for their depth of character or layers of subtlety, and *Kill Bill–Vol. 1* makes no bones about the fact that it is a straight-up gore-fest full of ballsy babes, samurai swords and super-cool fight sequences.

This is a purely plot-driven movie, but it is a true gem of a film if the viewer can check their art-film sensibilities at the door. In typical Tarantino fashion, the film flip-flops through time, jumping from the long-ago past to the near-past, to the long-ago past, to the while-ago-past to the…well, you get it. The plot, as is required by the kung fu formula, is easy to follow.

The Bride, played by Uma Thurman, is one helluva laday. Once the top assassin in the Deadly Viper Assassination Squad, she retires and is in the process of getting married when her wedding is set upon by Bill, the leader of the aforementioned Squad, and her former associate assassins (played by Lucy Liu, Tarantino vet Michael Madsen, Vivica A. Fox and Daryl Hannah), who lay waste the wedding party. Bill himself shoots The Bride in the head and leaves her for dead, but being the feisty fireball that Thurman is, she remains alive.

Filled with the requisite rage required by all the atrocities visited upon her by the kung fu revenge movie plot, The Bride sets out to exact her bloody revenge.

Tarantino's latest really is a masterful film. Despite its complete lack of depth or subtlety, the art direction, music, costuming and sheer vivacity of the movie raises it above being a film that fails due to a preponderance of style over substance.

Thurman carries *Kill Bill–Vol. 1* beautifully. She of the dewy skin, long bones and ethereal blond locks does not seem to be a wise choice for the ballbuster who has the chutzpah to go against the head of the Yakuza. But Thurman seems angry enough to pull off the role, with her eyes filled with steely resolve and those beautiful lips spouting ridiculous dialogue that seems relatively credible as a kung fu master.

PROVIDED PHOTO

In *Kill Bill–Vol. 1*, Thurman's yellow jumpsuit is an exact copy of the one Bruce Lee wore in his final film, *Game of Death*.

Tarantino, a gifted writer, has exchanged his usual quick-delivery idiosyncratic dialogue for the clichés that pepper kung fu films. It feels as if Tarantino has finally reached a peak where he can indulge his love of old movies unabashedly, flinging his $55,000,000 budget around with glee. Dismissed by some as self-indulgent, Tarantino is merely a man making a movie that is everything that he would want to see when he goes to the movies…and it is worth seeing.

Note: *Kill Bill–Vol. 1* is *extremely* violent and is not for the faint of heart.

You want CD reviews? We got CD reviews!

by Richard McDevitt

Billy Talent
Billy Talent
Atlantic

We seem to be at an age where every issue imaginable has been covered by hundreds of bands in almost every single genre. It's getting harder and harder to be original and address the same old conflicts in a refreshing manner. Billy Talent come close, but they don't quite hit the mark.

Dividing up the recording sessions between Vancouver and Toronto, Billy Talent emerged with 12 songs that relentlessly pound their way through tales of loneliness, heroin abuse, corruption and, of course, heartbreak.

Unfortunately, this record, produced by Gavin Brown (drummer for the likes of Big Sugar and Danko Jones), comes off as a generic punk album. The band often sounds like a toned-down Pennywise or Bad Religion in their early days. This, coupled with a few songs verging on lyrical schizophrenia and silliness, make it difficult to swallow as original.

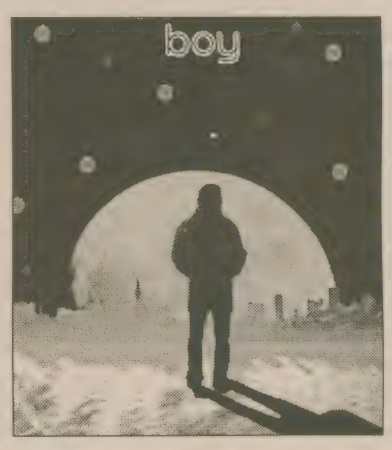
This self-titled album is a promising debut, but it's just not excellent. It would be easy to write Billy Talent off as another Canadian pop-punk band, but their record is a huge step above several other Canadian punk bands as of late. Perhaps with a few more albums and a couple of tours under their belts, Billy Talent will be able to stand out among their peers.

Youth & Young Manhood
Kings Of Leon
RCA

Hailing from Memphis, Tennessee, Kings of Leon, made up of three brothers and one first cousin, has had a strange musical upbringing. They began playing together while touring the country with their Pentecostal Evangelist father. After their father left the church, they began exploring different musical avenues and writing the songs that would eventually land them a record deal with RCA.

So how does their album sound? It's like the Allman Brothers without the 20 minute solos and Led Zeppelin without the psychedelics. Lead singer Caleb Followill does not have the voice of a 23 year old. He sounds as if he's toured back and forth across America numerous times and played every smoke-filled dive it has to offer. There's soul in his voice, which actually comes off as sincere.

Not only is the unfortunate critical comparison to The Strokes unwarranted, but it doesn't even come close to the mark. Kings of Leon have developed a unique sound and have found a way to acknowledge and pay respect to their influences. On top of all this, they look like they jumped straight out of the seventies, complete with long hair, beards and ratty clothes.



Boy
Boy
Bumstead

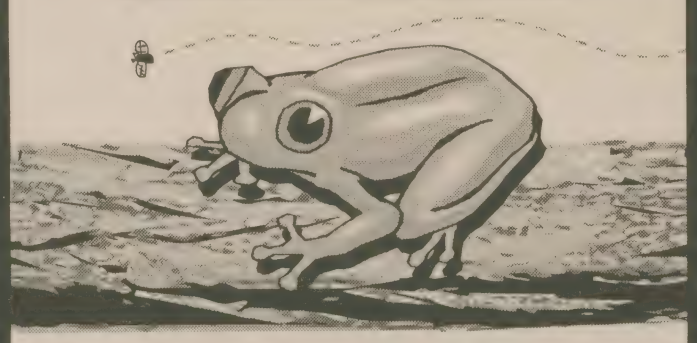
The self-titled album from Boy is garnering Stephen Noel a lot attention. The self-recorded, self-produced, self-written album crosses so many sonic boundaries that pinpointing his influences is more difficult than it would seem. Perhaps a little back-story will give you a better idea of where Stephen Noel is coming from.

Born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon, Noel began playing in bands at the age of 13. After a short-lived post-secondary education career at the University of Alberta, he returned to Whitehorse and locked himself away in his room with his guitars, his keyboards, a very cumbersome Hammond organ and Pro Tools. After a six-month routine of working 9-to-5 and recording at night and on weekends, he completed his first record. He's had two videos picked up by MuchMusic and was not only the highlight of Canadian Music Week, he was also the critics' favourite.

Fundamentally, *Boy* is a pop record with catchy hooks and stories about girls, booze and even CIA agents. In fact, the lyrics remain a standout feature on this album. Boy uses the concept of storytelling through music and by doing so keeps the listener engaged. The songwriting technique is most impressive, considering he's only 21 and the majority of the record was penned before he was 19.

He's dipped into the rock & roll dictionary and found a way to blend all his influences without sounding redundant.

As the plan stands now, Boy will be recording his next album sometime this year on Vancouver Island with Brendan McGuire, producer of Sam Roberts' album. So if you haven't heard of Boy, check him out now so that you can have bragging rights when his next record hits the shelves.

Don't be a bump on a log...
GET INVOLVED!
The 2004 Graduating Class of the University of Victoria Students' Society invites all undergrads graduating in the 2003/2004 academic year to join us in planning our Legacy Project (and the Grad Party).
Nominations to the Executive Council of the graduating class are open until October 18th. More information and nomination forms are now available at the UVSS Resource Centre.

Attend the UVSS Grad class Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, October 22**, at 11:30 in **Vertigo**.
(...and did we mention **FREE PIZZA**?)
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SUB B011

Sloan pleases biggest fan with new record

Former geography project subjects maintain their winning streak with Action Pact

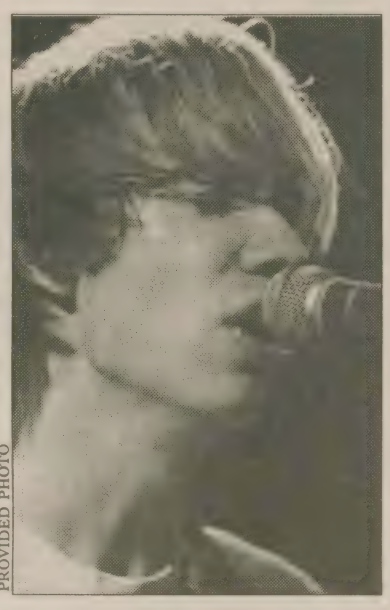
Action Pact
Sloan
BMG

BY JENNY HICKS

In just a few days, I will be lost in a throng of high-energy fans who, like me, have been anticipating this moment for two years. Memories of past Sloan concert-induced bruises will linger in my mind. For a second, I will ponder slipping away towards the safety of the back of the crowd, but with one signature karate-kid-inspired kick from bassist Chris Murphy I will inevitably snap back into reality. What could I be thinking? Leave? Now? Not a chance. This is all part of the Sloan experience.

I am a girl so obsessed with this band that I actually weaseled my way into writing a Grade 11 geography project (yes, geography) on Sloan. This also means that I am their biggest critic. My dependency on Sloan has grown over time, and I don't like to be disappointed.

Products of the Halifax music scene, Chris Murphy (bass), Patrick Pentland (guitar), Jay Ferguson (guitar) and Andrew Scott (drums) still play to the university crowd. Sloan has never been big enough to play stadiums, resulting in intimate gigs at local bars and universities. They've retained their popularity since their first album, *Smeared*, in 1992. They have recovered from a rumor-induced break-up–claiming that they hated each other, hated their deal



PROVIDED PHOTO

Sloan guitarist Jay Ferguson

with Geffen records and hated touring–following *Twice Removed* in 1994, and made a comeback in 1996 with *One Chord to Another*. Sloan is rockin' out again with the release of *Action Pact* in 2003.

Sloan recorded *Action Pact* in Los Angeles under the production skills of Tom Rothrock. As a band with four singer/songwriters, Sloan has been accused of making compilation albums in the past with each member contributing a few songs. This time around they left the song choice up to Rothrock and the result is a more focused album that contains some of Sloan's toughest rockers to date.

After a month of listening to the first single "The Rest of My Life" via the Internet and waiting two long years for a new album, I wanted more and I wanted greatness. As I popped the CD into my stereo, I eagerly anticipated the catchy melodies, clever lyrics and masterful harmonies I have come to expect from Chris, Patrick, Jay and Andrew. Much to my dismay, three songs had played before I realized the first one had finished.

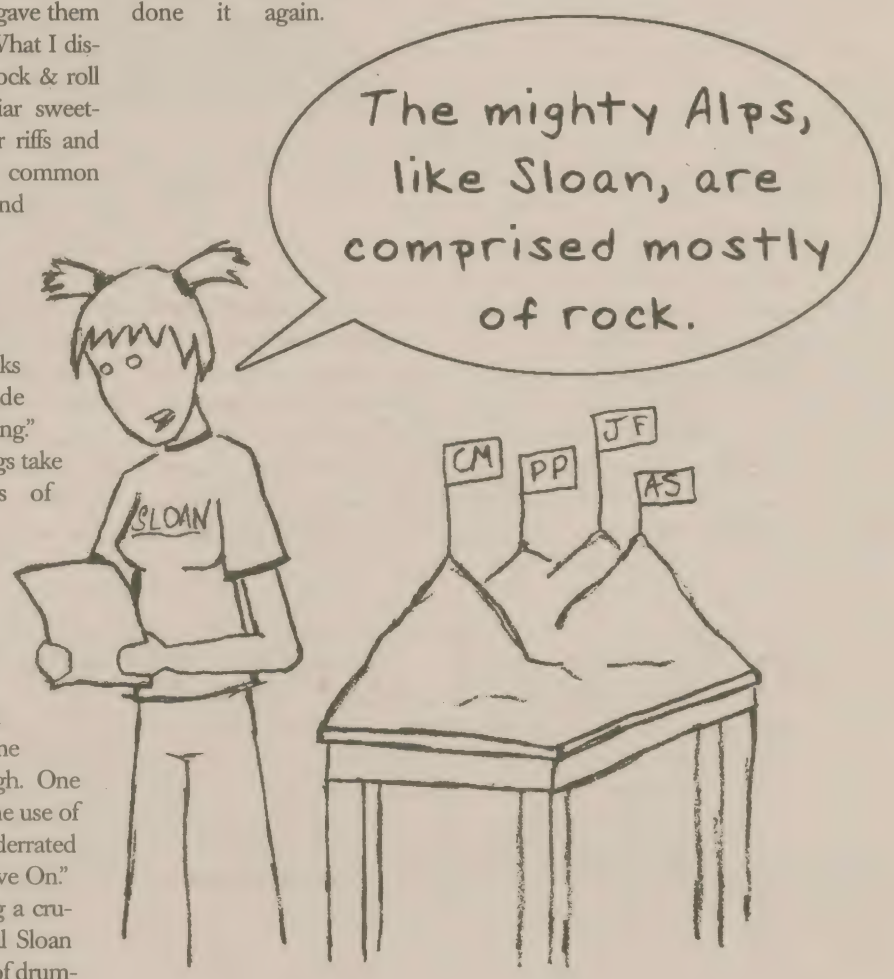
I pressed play again and gave them the benefit of the doubt. What I discovered was some edgy rock & roll combined with the familiar sweetness of Sloan. Hard guitar riffs and well-timed harmonies are common throughout the album, and Sloan's growing musical sophistication shines through.

The "Sloan sound" remains intact with tracks like "False Alarm," "Fade Away" and "I Was Wrong." These sweet-sounding songs take me back to the days of "Snowsuit Sound" (from their classic *Twice Removed* album) and bring a smile to my heart. Thankfully, there are rockers like "Gimme That," "Backstabbin,"" and "Reach Out" to bring me down from my sugar high. One highlight of the album is the use of the cowbell, a highly underrated musical instrument, on "Live On."

But *Action Pact* is missing a crucial piece of the proverbial Sloan puzzle: the writing talents of drummer Andrew Scott. Scott has brought us great songs of pure poetry in the past such as "People of the Sky" and "Before I Do," but this album doesn't feature any of his songs. Apparently he wasn't shafted by Rothrock, but was too busy changing diapers for his new daughter to concentrate on his songwriting.

Nonetheless, Sloan has done it again. They've produced an album completely different from the last one and have raised the bar on their own musical capabilities. I can't help but love these guys, and it's nice to have someone you can depend on.

Sloan will be playing at Legends on Sunday, Oct. 19.



Looking for a rollicking good time?

BY MAX LAMB

Think of Beck's song "The New Pollution." It has a twisted harmonic opening chorus of "Do-do-do's" that quickly transforms into cacophonic vaudevillian mayhem. This mimics Alisa Palmer's interpretation of *The Taming of the Shrew*, currently playing at the Phoenix Theatre. It begins with an assembly of actors who storm the stage singing "La-la-la's" and unfolds into a boisterous romantic comedy that chronicles the tale of a woman being groomed to be more lady-like and submissive.

William Shakespeare's classic play centres on two characters, Petruchio and Katherina. Petruchio (Jay Hindle) is the eccentric gentlemen from Verona given the difficult task of seducing the vixen Katherina (Annette Dreeshen). In wooing her, he also attempts to domesticize her temper and manner to satisfy his chauvinism.

The play was excellent, filled with energetic presentations of physical and verbal humour. The language is hard to comprehend at first, but the actors animated the story with their natural verbal delivery and spirited physical action.

The best scenes featured Petruchio and Grumio (Katie Hood), his servant. Hindle and Hood were absolutely hilarious, playing their scenes with a campy comic attitude. They weren't afraid to go over the top in terms of theatrics. Hindle and Hood flung their arms wildly around, thrust their feet in little jigs and slapped each other in slapstick combat.

These actors experimented with physicality until they found characters they were comfortable with, something encouraged by the director, Alisa Palmer.

"The physicality was born with the freedom that Alisa gave us," said Hood, a third-year acting student.

"She fully backed our impulses. She allowed it to come from the actor, and went with it," agreed Hindle, who returned after graduation for the role. It was a shame that the other actors didn't find livelier characters, like Marisa Smith did with her personage of Gremio, the old hermit.

The set and props were simple but detailed, with set pieces like a working fountain and a 1930s style motorbike. It was well-constructed and served the entrances and exits well.

The only music that was worth noting was the chorus of la-la-la's that preluded certain scenes, as the rest was basic Italian fanfare. The costumes were a little inconsistent, ranging from classic 1930s apparel to extravagant Renaissance attire. It was confusing at times as to when the play was actually taking place–in the Elizabethan era or in Italy in the 1930s as Palmer directed it.

Still, this was a fabulous play. It started strong and kept the audience entertained for over two hours, right up to its satisfying conclusion. Karen Taylor, who played Hortensio, agrees: "It's all about telling the story. The ending comes together so perfectly, I love it."

Congratulations cast and crew of *The Taming of the Shrew*. You are the "New Pollution."

The Taming of the Shrew *plays at the Phoenix Theatre until October 25.*

DAVID LOWES PHOTO

Hindle astride the bike with Dreeshen.

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Jack Black attack

School of Rock rocks the heart hard

BY BRIONY SMITH

School of Rock is one of the movies that critics like to brand "fun for the whole family" or "a charming romp that both Mom and Dad and the kids will enjoy!" Most university students are probably loath to see a G-rated film, expecting sanitized saccharine Disney-coloured pap. But *School of Rock* comes from a trio of men who are at the top of their game.

School of Rock's director is none other than indie wunderkind Richard Linklater, the auteur of such seminal slacker films as *Slacker, Dazed and Confused* and *Before Sunrise.* With *School of Rock,* Linklater has managed to make a film that is both smart and heartwarming.

The screenwriter, Mike White, is not the first person one would expect to pen this happy wee movie about the swell effects rock music can have on kids. White has risen to "established" status in the last several years with small films like *Chuck & Buck, Orange County,* and *The Good Girl,* all praised by critics. The self-appointed scribe of tales of quirky folks has followed the pattern with *School of Rock* as it charts the exploits of Jack Black, everyone's favourite everyman.

School of Rock is Black and White's second film together. Jack Black is the neighbour of White, who wrote the starring role of Lance in *Orange County* specifically for him. This pairing makes sense, as White seems able to capture Black's essence in the screenplay of *School of Rock,* channeling everyone's favourite "Jack Black characteristics" into the character of Dewey Finn.

Finn is a ne'er-do-well who has refused to give up his dream of being a rock legend, despite the fact that he is a boor who is overly fond of squealing guitar solos and is pointedly rejected when he attempts to stage dive. His antics get him voted out of the band that he started. His roommate Ned, played by Mike White himself, is pressured by his bossy girlfriend (Sarah Silverman) to collect the long overdue rent from his erstwhile roommate (he seems to sleep on couch cushions in an alcove in the living-room).

Faced with having to come up with a couple grand pronto, the plot gives Finn a way to make some quick cash. When an offer of a substitute teacher gig comes in for Ned, Finn goes in his place, clad in "teacherly garb" (a bowtie, vintage dress-shirt, corduroy pants and scarf).

PROVIDED PHOTO

Ah, Jack Black. His insouciance inspires a pack o' brats and, indeed, the world.

The movie takes off from there. Finn uses the class to form a rock band that he can enter into the local Battle of the Bands contest. The children are all assigned roles, like band members, stylist, groupies, and security. The children are well cast in that they seem like real kids, rather than cookie-cutter smiling cherubs that populate most children's films. Black is in top form, his face contorting with gargoylic glee as he plays air guitar and instructs the children on everything rock and roll.

School of Rock has its heart in the right place. The kids are given room to be themselves and Black doesn't take his obnoxious-man shtick too over-the-top. There are laughs too, such as when Black uses plenty of beer and some Stevie Nicks to loosen up the school principal (the ever-amazing Joan Cusack).

School of Rock is indeed a film that both adults and kids can enjoy. It's funny and cute, but not in a cloying way. Thank goodness we have a fun film like this to lighten up the serious fall film season a little.

Danny Michel is refreshing

Tales From The Invisible Man
Danny Michel
Maple Music Recordings

BY NICOLE PAQUETTE

One would expect Danny Michel, the emerging Canadian star of the critically drooled-over album *Tales From The Invisible Man* and newly-signed artist to Maple Music, to be a little arrogant. But Michel comes off as the friendly neighbourhood musician down the street.

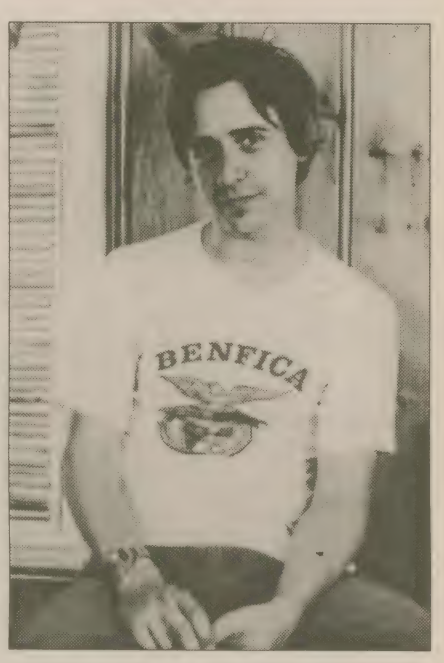
In the depths of his home, Danny has a fully-equipped sound studio in which he sang, played, and recorded such previous acclaimed records as 1999's *Fibsville* and the 2001 release *In The Belly Of A Whale.* He describes the recent *Tales From The Invisible Man* as "a lot more focused" than his previous albums. This is partly due to a self-induced time-out, when he took six months off from the constant grind of the music industry. Michel became more confident about pursuing his career after the hiatus, during which he missed making and performing music desperately.

Some describe Michel's music as pop-rock with some country, jazz and blues mixed in. Others describe it as purely pop.

Michel has another perspective. "It's lazy, burn-out rock. Simple and slow," he says.

Tales From The Invisible Man commands the listener's attention with urgency and strength. The album has a very positive and polished vibe, satisfying a hunger for something more substantial in a world that Michel describes as "pretty shallow."

The first single, "Perfect," starts off with an energizing driven melody that keeps escalating for the duration of the song, taking its listener on a fresh ride. "So don't wait up, just rest your eyes/ 'Cause I can't rush this beautiful ride/ Nobody move, this is perfect/ It's just like you." The track describes that short moment where everything falls into place.



Danny Michel describes his music as "simple and slow."

Usually albums come with a few songs that you like and the rest is fluff. That's the main difference between Michel and other artists: there is no fluff. It's obvious that all of the songs were chosen for quality and not quantity. The track "The Luckiest Man In The World" and "Oh Francisco" have a smooth sadness to them. They're definitely songs to ponder and sway to. To balance out the mood of the album are other tracks that take on lighter and brighter melodies, such as "Two Hearts" and "Beautiful."

In an industry where albums don't always live up to their hype, Danny Michel's *Tales From The Invisible Man* deserves acclaim for its refreshing sound and solid style.

Danny Michel will be playing at Lucky Bar on October 19.

Annual 'Bandfest Military Music Spectacular' arrives

BY STEVEN MASUCH

For the sixth year in a row, bands from across America are coming to Victoria to perform in Bandfest 2003, a local festival of military music.

From October 16 to 19, the Victoria Military Music Society will be host to almost a dozen different band recitals in locations ranging from Market Square to the MacPherson Theater.

Over nine different bands will be playing, including the four-time world champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, and the Soldiers' Chorus, one of the finest military ensembles of its kind.

Highlights of the festival include free performances in Market Square every day at noon and a final concert with the United States Army Field Band playing alongside the pipes and drums of The Canadian Scottish Regiment.

Started a decade ago by the Victoria Military Music Society (VMMS), the society focused on having public events like this from the start.

Originally, the idea was to have a large festival of military bands at a brand-new arena that was to be built for the Commonwealth Games in 1994. Unfortunately, the arena would have been too expensive and construction was cancelled. Despite the setback, the VMMS stayed together and worked on their goal of hosting an international festival of military bands held in Victoria.

"We got involved with the City of Victoria, the Hudson's Bay Company and local organizations to create a festival," said Rodger McGuire, chairman of the VMMS. "Even though we didn't have the arena, we wanted to build up a reputation for putting on events in Victoria that people would enjoy."

Over the next few years, the VMMS staged a number of smaller concerts and events, culminating in 1998 when they brought in high-profile bands from the USA, Scotland, and England. They hosted more concerts the following year and, in 2000, held the first annual "Bandfest Military Music Spectacular." It proved popular, and every year since has seen another enjoyable and successful festival.

For more details on showtimes and locations, check out www.bandfestvictoria.ca.

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Russ Francis is a reporter and political columnist with *Monday Magazine,* where he's won a number of journalism awards for investigative reporting and feature writing. As well, Francis freelances for the National Post, the Province, B.C. Business and other publications.

Thursday, October 16th 12:30- 2:00pm
Student Union Building Room B110a

Community-Based Interpretive Research: The "RARE" Experience
Historically, research has been seen as within the domain of academia. In recent years, however, academics have become interested in community-based research (doing research "with" the community). Yet the worlds of academia and community can be quite different. How are these two worlds brought together? Are community-based interpretive research projects led by academics "really" community-based? Or, how can they be?

Dr. Kelli Stajduhar a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre on Aging, University of Victoria and a Research Associate with the Vancouver Island Health Authority will address these questions and more by discussing her recent experience in conducting a large community-based interpretive research project focused on the context of injection drug use and HIV/AIDS in our community using RARE (Rapid Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) research methodology.

Tuesday, October 21st 12:30- 2:00pm
Student Union Building Room B110a

www.vipirg.ca for more info

Rapper/actor Shaquille O'Neal to try basketball

The Martlet *previews the upcoming NBA season*

BY RUTH KNOOP

Ahhhhh, summer, how I wish that time could stay year round. A time to sit back and reflect on the year gone by: grades; cash flow problems, how funny it was when the Lakers lost to San Antonio in the NBA playoffs.

But, while the ongoing Bennifer saga was big news this summer, with the exception of Kobe Bryant's extra marital/criminal activities, the NBA did not appear to be.

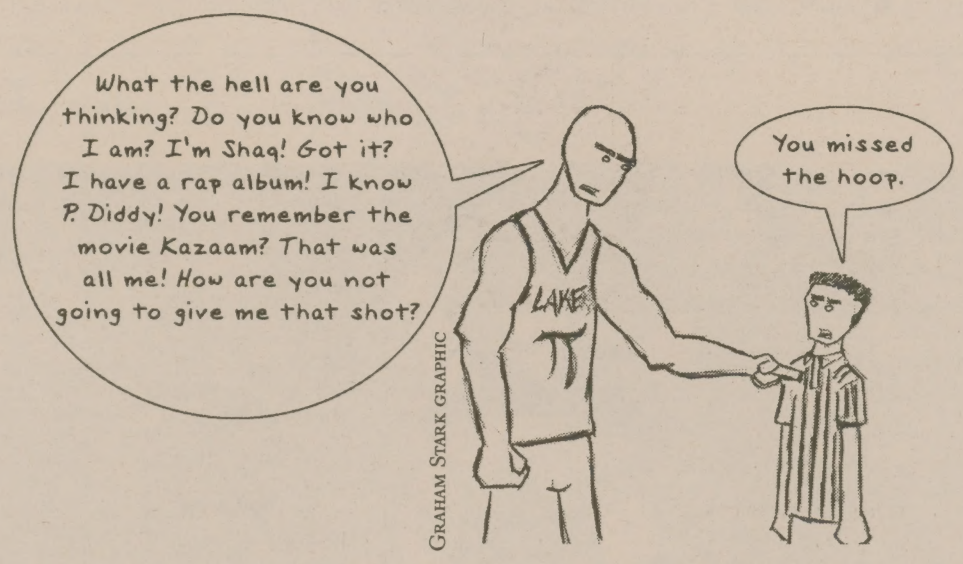
Appearance can be deceiving. Much occurred in the land of the round ball in the off-season, much indeed.

Despite his being the Mavericks' second leading scorer during last year's post season, Dallas traded guard Nick Van Excel and a slew of others to Golden State for, amongst others, wing/forward Antwan Jameson. Jameson averaged 22.2 ppg last season and was acquired to bolster Dallas's weak rebounding and down low scoring.

Along with Jameson the Mavs picked up forward Danny Fortson in the Golden state deal and will be hoping that the one time Cincinnati Bearcat can regain his rebounding form from years past.

Last year Dallas made it to the Western Conference finals, and the team is hoping that their recent additions, along with all-star (and Victoria local) Steve Nash, will prove to be the difference this year.

By the way, kudos to Nash for being the only Canadian NBA player to play with team Canada in Olympic qualifying. The Olympics used to matter to athletes, but I guess representing the country that nurtured your fledgling talents is too much of a burden for hard done by multi-millionaires to bear. Take note Jamal Magloire and Rick Fox. We are not amused.


What the hell are you thinking? Do you know who I am? I'm Shaq! Got it? I have a rap album! I know P. Diddy! You remember the movie Kazaam? That was all me! How are you not going to give me that shot?
You missed the hoop.
LAKERS
GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

Dallas was not the only team on the market this summer. Minnesota added centre Michael Olowokandi and guards Lattrel Sprewell and Sam Cassell to their roster in a bid to finally advance past the first round.

Olowokandi, who averaged a career high 12.3 ppg last season with the LA Clippers, is expected to flourish as a shot-blocker and low post scorer. However, his health is questionable as he missed over 40 games last season with a knee injury.

Sprewell did not come cheap.

Minnesota lost Terrel Brandon and Marc Jackson to get him. But, with Brandon's injuries and Jackson's less than stellar scoring average (5.5 ppg), Minnesota should be jumpin' for joy with their new soup du jour.

Plus, Minnesota managed to keep their main entrée pipin' hot as they signed their all-time leading scorer, Kevin Garnett, to a multi-year contract extension reportedly worth $100 million for five years.

In a no-brainer move, Cleveland signed high school freak LeBron James. Drafted first overall, "King James" followed the footsteps of prominent media headliner Kobe Bryant by declining to attend university and heading straight to the NBA draft. The 6' 8" guard is the newest teen phenom to be labelled the next Michael Jordan (see Penny Hardaway and Grant Hill for results).

Speaking of Jordan, he retired again–supposedly for the last time. His Airness was not the only one to say goodbye this summer as Longtime San Antonio Spur David Robinson decided to throw in the towel. Robinson helped lead the Spurs to two championships and was known for his extreme sportsmanship on and off the court.

Robinson's departure will hurt the Spurs. Although they picked up Chicago's Ron Mercer and Sacramento's Hideo Turkulo and still boast the "Big Fundamental," Tim Duncan, look for the NBA championship to land elsewhere than the Alamo.

Much as I hate to say it, the Lakers are probably going all the way this year. After last year's "disappointing loss" to San Antonio, LA spared no expense acquiring guard Gary Payton and forward Karl Malone. Along with Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, the Lakers now own the rights to four future Hall of Famers. The only thing that could possibly stop the Lakers is the weight of their own huge egos.

Coach Phil Jackson had enough problems dealing with two petulant superstars. How's he going to deal with four? Not to mention Kobe's criminal problems: at training camp, he's already been a late show.

As for our country's lone team, the Toronto Raptors, Vince Carter swears that he's feeling better than ever and that this is the year. However, the Raptors haven't really improved much on paper. Look for them to finish in the top half of the eastern conference, but good luck getting past New Jersey or Detroit.

Overall, the Eastern Conference will belong, once again, to the New Jersey Nets. In the West, take your pick: Lakers, Spurs, Kings, Mavs or Timberwolves. As for the championship, no way in hell will the Lakers get my blessing, so I'll go out on a limb here: there is championship howl in the air, and it sounds like a Teen Wolf.

Lone jogger interrupted by hysterical mob

NIC HUME PHOTO

Runners begin their 5 km circuit at UVic's Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. The run was won in 16:50 by Mark Creery. The leading woman, Tiffany Evans, finished 3rd overall. Just over one hundred runners took part in this year's race. The trot is put on annually to coincide with the Royal Victoria Marathon.

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Ontario Liberals to toss 'dwarf-tossing'

BY JASPER SCHWARTZ

It's been just over a year since the sport of "dwarf-tossing" came to a crushing halt when the United Nations upheld a ban on the activity, citing human rights reasons.

The UN ban all but ended the career of Manuel Wackenheim, who, at three feet 10 inches, made his living being "tossed" in bars and clubs.

Before the UN ban, dwarf-tossing generally took place in drinking establishments.

The dwarf would be placed in a special harness, and people would take turns seeing who could "pitch" him the furthest. Prizes would be awarded to the winner, and the person being tossed would receive a fair paycheck.

To many Canadians, even the name "dwarf-tossing" brings up horrible images and stereotypes that should have been done away with years ago. Even describing the activity seems barbaric. To its detractors it seems strange that the United Nations would have to place a ban on something so unreasonable.

It's easy to imagine "dwarf-tossing" as something done in seedy clubs in Europe, especially in France where the ban originated. Unfortunately, Canada is just as guilty as many other countries, if not more so. In June of this year a Toronto adult entertainment club made national news when it sponsored a dwarf-tossing event. Audience members tossed "Tripod," who measured in at four feet, eight inches, across the club. The longest throw was over two metres.

The dwarf-tossing, which took place at Leopards Lounge and Broil, was hotly contested by Windsor MPP Sandra Pupatello. Pupatello, the deputy leader of the Ontario Liberal party, introduced a private members bill in the Ontario Legislature in June that sought to ban dwarf-tossing events. However Ontario's Conservative government decided that it needed more time to review the implications of the bill.

The Lancet, the University of Windsor's student newspaper, ran an ad in their October first issue for a dwarf-tossing at the Leopard Lounge on October 2, indicating that action had yet to be taken.

However, with the election of a Liberal government that same night, the possibility that Pupatello might reintroduce the legislation as a government bill seems high.

It now appears that a victory for human dignity might well be imminent.

Not, however, according to those being tossed. Manuel Wackenheim pleaded with the United Nations to lift the tossing ban. Without the money he earned from dwarf-tossing, Wackenheim is without a source of income.

As for Tripod, he told the *Windsor Star*, "I'm an adult and can make my own decisions. I don't need anyone telling me what I can and can't do."

Toss at your own risk

LIZ ESTEY PHOTO

Thunder, the world's only known "Vike" poses menacingly at a men's basketball game last week. Watch for a tell-all on the origins of the mysteriously monosyllabic Vikes, in an upcoming *Martlet*.

Vikes shine as Canada's rugby hopes dwindle following Welsh debacle

BY RICHARD WARNICA

UVic rugby players Mark Lawson and Colin Yukes both figured in Canada's opening-round loss to Wales on Sunday. Lawson, the former Vikes and Canada U-17 captain, played the entire game at hooker. Yukes, the Mammoth forward from Alberta who will join the Vikes in January, played at lock despite having played much of his rugby in the back row.

Former Felicita's doorman and current Oxford Blue Kevin Tkachuk was the lone try scorer for Canada, in the 41–10 loss. Tkachuck, who previously played for the Victoria-based Pacific Pride under-23 development team, came on for prop Rod Snow at 56 minutes and scored off a set piece move soon after.

UVic scrumhalf Ed Fairhurst did not feature in the loss.

The defeat means that Canada is all but eliminated from quarterfinal contention. For Canada to advance they would have to beat the mighty All Blacks on Thursday, an unlikely possibility. In July, Canada lost 30–9 to New Zealand Maori, a team of mostly second and third choice New Zealand professionals much weaker then the full All Black side.

In other Cup news, England is facing injury disaster after their weekend clash with Georgia. Back-up scrum half Kyran Bracken suffered back spasms during warm-up and was forced off the roster. Starting scrumhalf Matt Dawson then left the game in the 36th minute with a calf strain, leaving Glouster's Andy Gomersall to play out of position in the number 9 jersey.

To add to the English woe, third choice scrum half Austin Healy also suffered a calf strain while playing for his club side in England, thus forcing the English to recall their fourth choice number 9 Martyn Wood.

PROVIDED PIXELS

Vikes lock Colin Yukes

In addition to the calamity at scrumhalf, England also lost lock Danny Grewcock, flanker Richard Hill and center Mike Tindall during the Georgian clash. If none of the wounded recover by Saturday, England would be forced to field a much depleted squad for their key match up with South Africa. The losers of Saturday's game will likely end up playing New Zealand in the quarterfinal, a prospect that has to be daunting for either team.

There were no upsets in round one. New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, France, Ireland and Scotland all won with relative ease against much weaker opposition.

The game to watch in round two is England vs. South Africa.

The two teams had a bloody encounter in London last year, and both squads will be desperate for a win. Canadian fans should keep an eye on the Italy vs. Tonga match, as the loser of that match likely presents Canada with their best chance for a victory.

Sports briefs

Soccer

Vikes Women's goaltender Morgan Leverman was named Canada West Female Athlete of the Week after her shutout performance against the Trinity Western Spartans last Saturday. The Vikes won the game 4–0. With Saturday's win, the Vikes now stand 6–2–1 in Canada West. Their next game is tonight in Regina against the University of Regina Cougars.

The Men's soccer team was also victorious this past weekend, easily defeating the Spartans 4–1. Sean Battistoni scored twice in the victory. With the win, the Vikes improve their record to 4–4 and are tied for fourth place in Canada West. The Vikes' next game is Saturday in Saskatoon against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

Cross Country

This past weekend the Vikes Men's and Women's team participated in the New Balance Invitational at Beacon Hill Park. The Men's team finished fourth overall, while the women took second place. Currently, the women are ranked number one in the CIS and the men are number six. Both teams are vying for a berth at this year's Nationals in Moncton, N.B.

Rugby

The Women's team hosts the Canada West Championships this weekend. The Vikes, not currently ranked in the national top 10, will be in tough against the reigning national champions and number one Alberta Pandas, as well as the number six Lethbridge Pronghorns. Also in the tournament are the odious Thunderbirds of UBC. UVic plays at 11 oclock Friday morning against UBC at Wallace field in the tournament's first game.

For a full tournament schedule visit www.uvic.ca/vikes.

Rowing

The Men's and Women's rowing team suffered disappointment at the Deep Cove and Freshman Classic when both regattas were cancelled because of high winds.

Volleyball

The Vikes Women's team went 1–3 this past weekend in Caldwell, Idaho at the Blockbuster Tournament. UVic started the weekend strong with a 3–1 victory over rivals Westminster College. They then lost their remaining matches against the University of Montana-Western, Albertson College and Southern University College 3–0. The Vikes will now focus their attention on the Tier 1 B.C. Provincial Championships slated for early April 2004.

Golf

The Vikes Men's team won the B.C. University Challenge this past weekend. Rounds took place on Saturday at Uplands and Sunday at Cordova Bay golf course. UBC was second by 20 strokes and SFU was third. UVic's Todd Halpen placed first individually with scores of 73 and 71. Second place was also claimed by a Vike, Saare Adams, with rounds of 70 and 80.

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On campus

UVic Circle K Volunteers Club Want to be part of the World's largest university/college service organization?! Circle K is all about service, leadership, fellowship and having lots of FUN!!! Circle K is a great place to meet new people, work with children, students, adults, seniors and a totally awesome organization to be part of! Circle K meets every Wed. in CLE A301 at 6 p.m.. So please come join us or contact Neelam Sandhu at neelams@uvic.ca for more information.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS REGIONAL CONFERENCE at UVic, Nov. 7–9. This conference will bring together Catholic university/college students from all across Western Canada. Check out details and registration forms at www.stas.uvic.ca/chap/catholic

Bicycle to UVic? Increase your confidence in traffic with our one day cycling skills course. Deposit refunded upon attendance. Info at web.uvic.ca/uvbikes

Off campus

Activist Video Night "Pickaxe – War in the Woods" Go Behind the scences as Earth FIRST! environmentalists fight to protect redwood forests. Tues. Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Camosun College, Fisher Bldg., RM 100. FREE. Info. 595-3991

COMMUNITY BROOM BASH: Cattle Point in Uplands Park. Sat. Oct. 25 and Sun Oct 26 1–4 p.m.. Bring your own tools: saws. loppers, gloves and your family. Join Girl Guides, Rotory Club of Oak Bay and the Interact Club of Oak Bay Secondary and remove scotch broom and other non-native invasive plants from the Garry Oak meadow. Participate in an envirnomentally friendly, family and community event and get a physical workout! Contact Margaret Lidkea 595-8084.

BLUEGRASS JAM, Tuesdays at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood, 7:30 p.m. Players of all levels welcome. Players $2, listeners free. Contact: Larry Lawrence Statland (250) 472-6483.

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Help wanted

Sitter required, two children ages 5 and 6. From Wednesday to Saturday. In my house. Phone 479-4779.

TRICK-OR-EAT: It's nearly time for UVic's 2nd annual Halloween food drive! We are looking for volunteers to dress up with their friends and go door-to-door canvassing Victoria's neighbourhoods for non-perishable food donations. From 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, we need you (and possibly your car) to help us collect food for The Mustard Seed and the UVic Food Bank. Interested? Please contact Leslie at lbootle@uvic.ca (Trick-Or-Eat in subject line) or 415-3582.

GREEN PARTY now hiring door-to-door canvassers. If you are articulate, intelligent and politically motivated, please apply. Call 382-8378.

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Announcements

CHINESE WING CHUN KUNG FU Tuesday & Thursday 7–8 p.m. Call Ray 383-0408. Visit www.springtimesong.com.

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Compaq Presario Computer For Sale.
Runs Windows '95. Printer inc. $250 obo #360-6632.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: '96 Larivee OM-1 w/case $750, early 20th century Didelot violin w/suspension case $2000, 70s Stewart MacDonald 5-string banjo $650, 1929 Ludwig Riviera Deluxe plectrum banjo w/original case $1200. Call Marty for details 744-5876.

Computer desk and chair. Desk is snazzy black, large-ish. Chair is gray. $60, buyer collects. 384-1966.

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Hey you!

Dear you know who, next time you break my heart don't let your poison free to flow through my veins. K.L.

To my hot cartoonist boyfriend: it's only a week until we're together again and then it will be five days of unadulterated snuggling. Birthday mayhem wouldn't be half as enjoyable without you here. Thank goodness you're so cuddly and crossing international borders for my hot love!

Hey you OpEd editor, get a life or goto Hades. N.H.

Thanks to the Starbuck's coffee cartell for making a cup of java cost three times what it should. Caffeine should be an affordable stimulant.

Tawny, I didn't mean to be a cruel-fool, I didn't mean to make you cry. But since I did can you move your shit out of my apartment? Thanks.

Spankings aren't just for perverts anymore, David. You won't go to hell for a mere tap on the bum.

Seventeen, don't you dare call her! The inner workings of my mind are not for the faint of heart!

When your dog may bite people tie it up, or I'll bite you and your fucking doggie too.

I love you my honey-plum-sauce, back bacon smelling, baby – but, please bathe.

Hey dumbass, when the car next to you is slowing down at a crosswalk, there's a really good chance that someone is about to walk in front of you.

You know you want to go see it, Elizabeth. It has zombies! Zombies! My gigantic head would feel insulted if you didn't.

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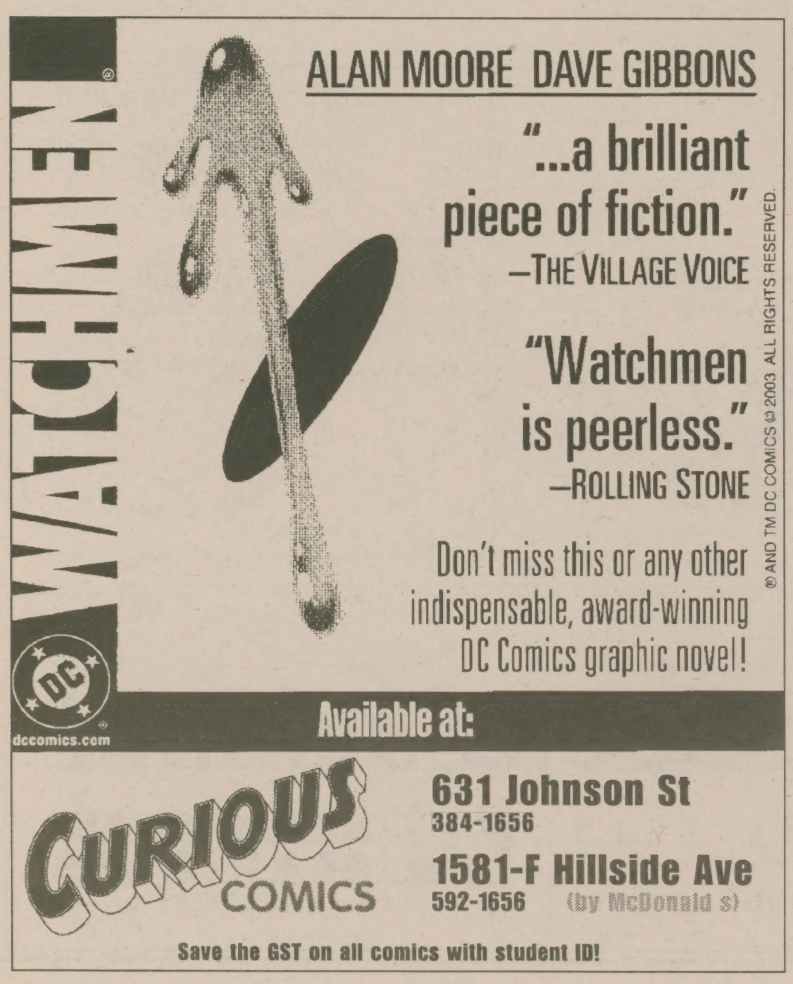
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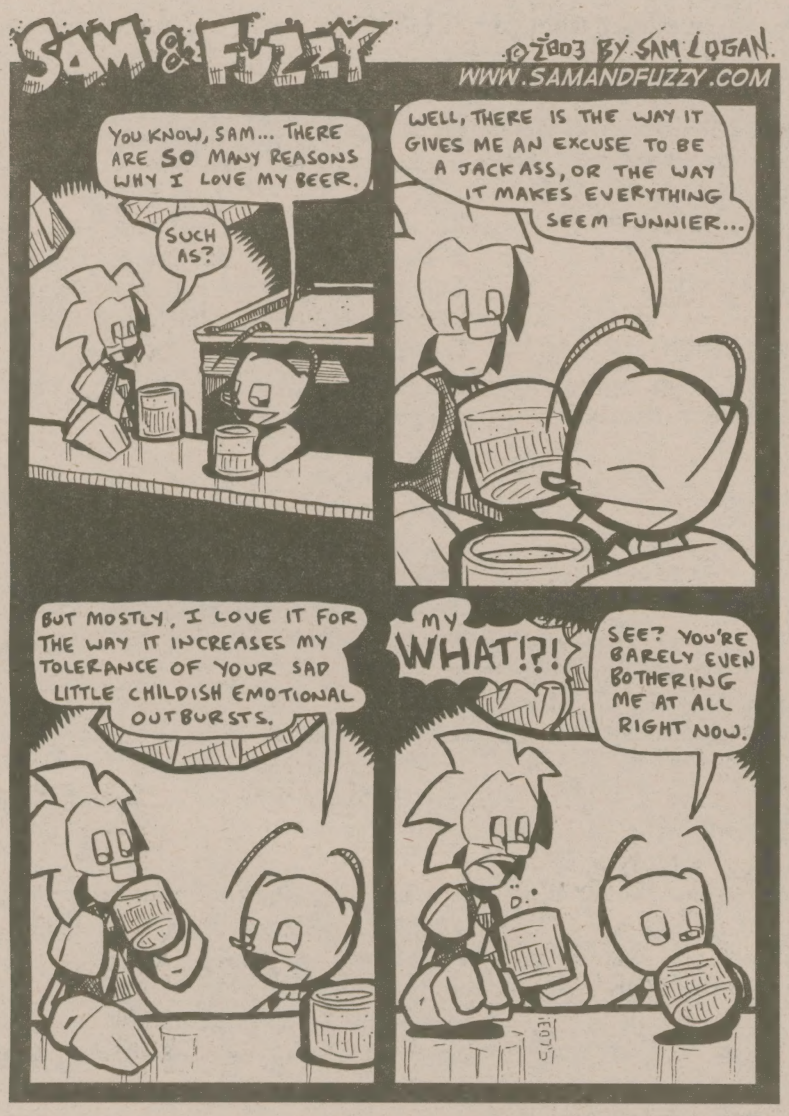
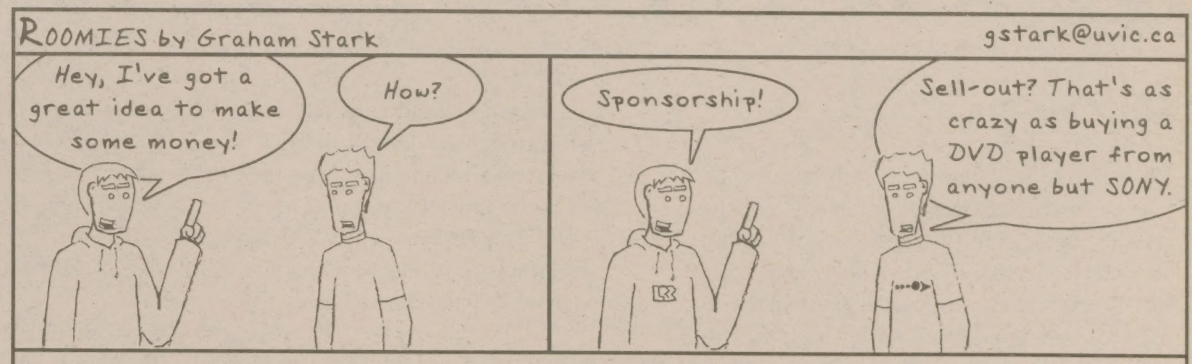
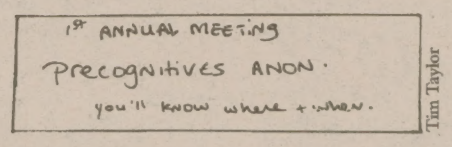
The Martlet is looking for a
Production Assistant

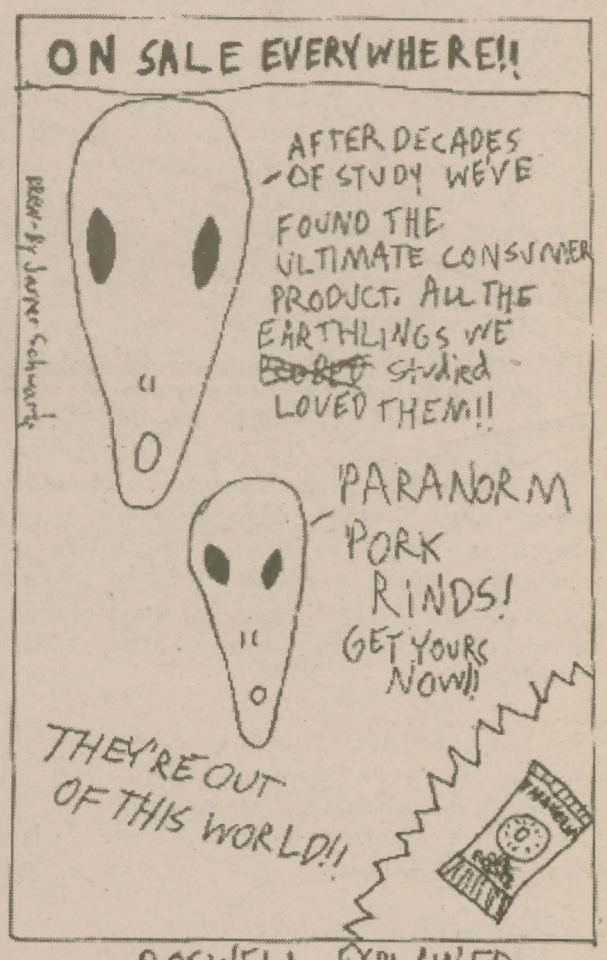
Do you like Quark Xpress? Do you like the funness of using a waxer and doing pasteup? Does page layout make you orgasmic?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may wish to consider dropping off your résumé and cover letter to
SUB B011 by Friday, October 24, 2003

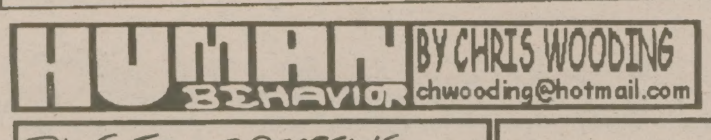

SAM & FUZZY
©2003 BY SAM LOGAN.
WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM
YOU KNOW, SAM... THERE ARE SO MANY REASONS WHY I LOVE MY BEER.
SUCH AS?
WELL, THERE IS THE WAY IT GIVES ME AN EXCUSE TO BE A JACKASS, OR THE WAY IT MAKES EVERYTHING SEEM FUNNIER...
BUT MOSTLY, I LOVE IT FOR THE WAY IT INCREASES MY TOLERANCE OF YOUR SAD LITTLE CHILDISH EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS.
MY WHAT!?!
SEE? YOU'RE BARELY EVEN BOTHERING ME AT ALL RIGHT NOW.

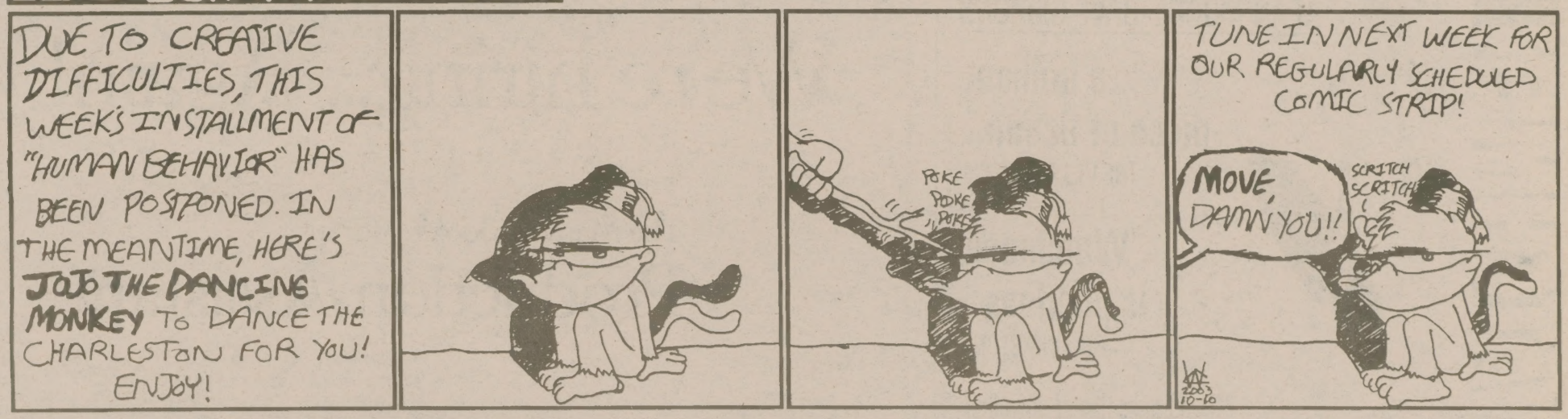

ROOMIES by Graham Stark
gstark@uvic.ca
Hey, I've got a great idea to make some money!
How?
Sponsorship!
Sell-out? That's as crazy as buying a DVD player from anyone but SONY.
THIS SHAMELESS PLUG BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
Roomies New Home Online:
www.Loading Ready Run.com
a Comedy Website Created by
Graham Stark
and
Paul Saunders
See Roomies from the Beginning!
I'm a corporate whore!




ON SALE EVERYWHERE!!
AFTER DECADES OF STUDY WE'VE FOUND THE ULTIMATE CONSUMER PRODUCT. ALL THE EARTHLINGS WE ~~[illegible]~~ studied LOVED THEM!!
PARANORM PORK RINDS! GET YOURS NOW!!
THEY'RE OUT OF THIS WORLD!!
ROSWELL EXPLAINED
-Capitalists Everywhere Rejoice

Same sex marriages are morally wrong.
If accepted, the logical consequences may follow like this:
FIRST, THE ALLIANCE PARTY WILL CALL THE END TO CIVIL SOCIETY.
It will destroy the traditional concept of family.
NIHILISM WILL INVADE OUR NERVOUS SYSTEM.
God is almost dead!
I said onto them: Judge Activism has gone too far...
GOD EXPLAINS DOGMA AGAIN: SMITES JUDGES.
PEOPLE CONSIDER SWITCHING SIDES.
Just try! See if you like it.
AFTERWARDS, ALLIANCE LEADERS WILL RETREAT TO NAZIS HEADQUARTERS TO DEVISE 'NEW' EUGENIC METHODS.
There's one! Get him!
BIGOTS UNITE
SCIENCE TOO WILL CONTINUE TO FASHION MORALS.
I've been envious for some time...
Adam you fool.
LASTLY, PROCREATION CEASES AND SO DOES CIVILIZATION THEREAFTER.
Russell Ross




DUE TO CREATIVE DIFFICULTIES, THIS WEEK'S INSTALLMENT OF "HUMAN BEHAVIOR" HAS BEEN POSTPONED. IN THE MEANTIME, HERE'S JOJO THE DANCING MONKEY TO DANCE THE CHARLESTON FOR YOU! ENJOY!
POKE POKE POKE
MOVE, DAMN YOU!!
SCRITCH SCRITCH
TUNE IN NEXT WEEK FOR OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMIC STRIP!

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